

FREE

Kent on Sunday

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East Edition No 617

POLITICS »

Say hello, and wave goodbye

Delight and despair as our MPs
find out fate in PM's reshuffle

NEWS »

Delay on Thames crossing decision

Guessing game as to where
it will go set to continue

CRIME »

Police failings in murder report

Why did wife die at hands
of violent husband?

PROFILE »

High Sheriff saddles up

We meet the man from the
famous retail family



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Warning over the winds of change blowing our way

IT SEEMS barely a week goes by without a weather warning of some kind or another.

It would certainly give the impression that climate change has delivered us from four season mediocrity to simply a haphazard blend of hurricanes, floods, blizzards and scorching temperatures.

Yet it was not always thus.

Before some high profile forecasting faux pas - remember the 1987 hurricane? - we just all realised that sometimes, the weather would not be simply Britain's default cloudy skies with a bit of rain here and there, and a bit of sun once in a while.

Today, it would seem any slight variation and the weather warnings come out urging us all to batten down the hatches.

This week we saw, for example, the temperatures soar. Instead of simply accepting that this is the summer and



Editor **Chris Britcher**

therefore it gets hotter as a consequence, the fact it was really hot was announced as if we were about to become a desert nation. Next week they will no doubt be a warning that it 'might be a bit mild'.

The weather was certainly a distraction from what has been a busy news week.

The remarkable transformation of David Cameron's Cabinet made plenty of headlines and the repercussions will be felt from now until we all go to the polls next May for the General Election.

Kent's MPs had contrasting fortunes with some enjoying promotion and others - in some cases bafflingly - being dropped down the pecking order.

Inside we look at the impacts and get some fascinating comment from political pundit Iain Dale.

Enjoy your weekend. And watch out for that weather.

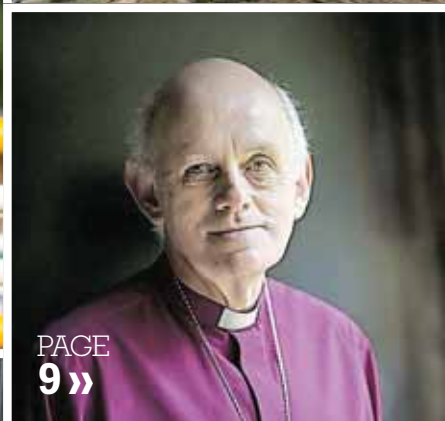
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Right to be cautious over third crossing, says MP

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

DARTFORD MP Gareth Johnson says further detailed planning into the two options proposed for a third Thames crossing is "prudent".

He insists the delay – with no decision now expected until after next May's General Election – will allow time for the impact of the removal of tolls at the existing Dartford Crossing to be factored into the decision.

The tolls will be removed by October, with motorists having to pay remotely to use the link across the river.

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin this week announced the Government would undertake detailed planning in two possible locations – known as options A and C.

Option A is next to the existing Dartford Crossing, option C near Gravesend. A third option, at Swanscombe, was ruled out as it may derail plans for the £2bn Paramount entertainment park.

The announcement came as the Department for Transport published its response to the public consultation, which generated more than 5,700 responses.



WHERE NEXT? The Dartford Crossing, which along with the Blackwall Tunnel, is one of two existing routes

Conservative Mr Johnson said: "Another Thames crossing is expected to cost up to £3 billion – that is the equivalent of 30 new hospitals and it would be wrong to spend that kind of money without having the full facts.

"There are so many variables in this decision. Firstly, we need to wait and see how the traffic flow changes with the introduction of the free-flow system and the removal of the toll booths in October.

"It is likely to confirm that we do still need a crossing even after free flow is introduced.

"I don't share the view of those who say just build it and be damned. Irresponsible spending of taxpayers' money got this country into terrible trouble in the past and we must not repeat those mistakes.

"It is right we are careful and prudent. Today's decision will not delay the building of crossing, due to be in place by 2025, but we have to make sure we get it right."

Meanwhile, the Highways Agency this week confirmed a deal to ensure a host of outlets would be equipped to take payments for use of the new toll-free Dartford Crossing later this year.

It is to partner one of the largest independent networks of payment agents in the UK, covering thousands of retail outlets across the country with a Payzone terminal. The charge must be paid before the midnight of the day after the crossing has been completed.

Oyster festival parking chaos averted as park and ride site confirmed

ORGANISERS of the Whitstable Oyster Festival have confirmed plans for parking for the event, after the town's main car park had to be closed on safety grounds.

It prompted fears of chaos in the small town as thousands descended but without adequate place to park.

The festival is the traditional high point for the town and a big money-earner.

The Gorrell Tank car park has been shut for weeks after it was discovered struts beneath it – where there is literally a large tank designed to absorb flood waters – were beginning to crumble.

It accommodated some 240 spaces.

Now, however, those behind the hugely popular annual event, which runs from July 26 to August 1, say they have agreed terms to use playing fields for a massive park and ride.

And all visitors are being advised to follow signs to use the site in Church Street, which will be open from 8am to 8pm over the opening weekend.

Spokeswoman Anna Sharp said:

"Obviously, we would like to encourage as many people to come by public transport as possible but, for those driving, we are also offering a special rate for the park and ride if booked in advance.

"The aim is to achieve a much more fluid version of previous festivals while still retaining the unique character of the event."

By reserving a space in advance, motorists can save 25 per cent off the total cost. The cost then would be £7.50.

Buses will drop off and collect at the harbour and Oxford Street.

There have been vociferous complaints about the timing of the repairs from the likes of local MP Julian Brazier and many town-centre traders worried about a reduction in footfall.

Southern Water, which is carrying out repairs to the Gorrell Tank site, says work is progressing well and hopes that at least half of the site will be open again by the end of the month.

Python bids farewell as fans head for cinema send-off

HUNDREDS of Monty Python fans will flock to cinemas around the county this evening to watch their heroes perform together for the very last time.

The famous comedy team reunited for a string of shows at the O2 Arena in recent weeks.

After ruling out shows elsewhere in the world, they confirmed tonight's performance would be the last one the five surviving

members would perform.

Original member Graham Chapman, who lived in Maidstone, died in 1989 at the town's hospital from throat cancer. He was just 48.

He has, however, played a role during the performances, featuring on giant video screens on and surrounding the stage.

The performance is being beamed live into cinemas and broadcast on TV channel Gold.

Eurostar cashes in despite 'World Cup effect' on travel

THE WORLD Cup took its toll on cross-Channel train operator Eurostar, the firm claimed, as it announced further growth in passenger numbers for the first six months of the year.

The company saw passenger numbers increase by 2 per cent to five million. That's a rise of 100,000 travellers from the same period last year.

But it said the 'World Cup

effect' had seen many households delay or postpone their spending on leisure travel until after the final.

Sales revenues also grew by 0.5 per cent to £456 million – up from £453m in the first six months of 2013.

Eurostar operates services from London St Pancras to the Continent via Ebbsfleet and Ashford international stations.

Lightning hits home as county swelters in heat

A FATHER was left with burns after lightning set fire to his home in the early hours of Friday.

It comes after the sweltering temperatures of the week gave way to heavy thunderstorms in the west of the county.

Roy Thomas was asleep in bed at his home in Calderwood, Gravesend, at about 3.20am when he and his family were woken by a huge bang and discovered

lightning had hit his home and sparked a blaze in the loft. He was slightly injured as he attempted to tackle the flames before fire crews arrived.

Temperatures reached 31°C on Friday, with further storms and rain expected over the weekend.

Next week's forecast is for the weather to remain warm but with isolated rain showers at the start of the week.



RIP: Peaches Geldof

Inquest into tragic death of Peaches Geldof

THE full inquest into the circumstances surrounding the death of journalist, model, TV presenter and socialite Peaches Geldof takes place this week.

The 25-year-old – daughter of Live Aid hero Bob Geldof – was found dead at the home she shared with her husband, Thomas Cohen, and their two young sons in Wrotham on April 7.

The alarm was only raised when she failed to respond to phone calls. Her 11-month-old son was with her in the house. Ms Geldof was declared dead at the scene.

An inquest opened, and swiftly adjourned in May, said toxicology reports suggested the drug heroin was a "likely" contributory factor in her death.

Now the full inquest will begin on Wednesday at Gravesend Old Town Hall.

Ms Geldof had grown up in Faversham, where her family continue to have a rural retreat, and lived a life under the glare of the spotlight.

Her mother, TV presenter Paula Yates, died in 2000 of an accidental heroin overdose. Peaches was just 11 at the time and admitted she had never got over her death.

The day before she was found dead, she had posted a photograph of herself in the arms of her mother as a child on her Twitter account.

County chief throws his support behind council moves on closed airport

By Maria Chiorando

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THE drama over stricken Manston Airport continues to rumble on, with Kent County Council this week pledging to support Thanet District Council should it opt to serve a compulsory purchase order on the site.

The airport closed in May with the loss of 140 jobs. Its owner, millionaire business woman Ann Gloag, turned down offers by a US investment firm, RiverOak, to buy the airport, despite it apparently meeting her £7 million asking price.

She insists the airport could not be turned into a profitable concern in the medium term after hoped-for deals with Ryanair for commercial services and BA for freight broke down.

Thanet District Council continues to examine the implications of a CPO, which is a power afforded to local authorities to buy private sites if it can be demonstrated it is for the greater good.



KCC CHIEF: Paul Carter

But by using public money in any capacity, it carries risk – and in these austere times would have to be done only with cast-iron guarantees protecting the public purse.

At a meeting in County Hall in

Maidstone, county council leader Paul Carter said the authority was supportive of the Labour-led Thanet council's steps so far.

The Conservative county leader said: "We do support the direction of travel currently being taken by Thanet District Council because they have listened to us, we have talked together.

"As I have said before, the most important thing is that any future owner of Manston has the firepower, the financial ability to turn Manston into a great success which helps to support the east Kent economy and creates a significant job opportunity."

Thanet council leader Iris Johnston has stressed that the council would need a partner to provide financial backing should it go ahead with the scheme. RiverOak continues apparently to be interested in the scheme.

Meanwhile, this week a delegation from Taiwan visited the airport for a tour of the facilities with a view to stimulating interest in a sale.

Takeaways close to schools told to shut

FAST-food outlets that open near schools in Medway will now have to shut for part of the day to help tackle rising numbers of overweight children.

New hot-food takeaways will be banned from opening from 3pm to 5pm if they are near any school, and from noon to 2pm too if they are near a secondary school.

The legislation will affect takeaways within 400 metres of a school, of which there are 179 in Medway. It will not apply to existing businesses.

Developers of new takeaways will also have to make a contribution of some £100 per 10 square metres to schemes in Medway helping people to follow a healthy diet and exercise.

Thirty per cent of adults in Medway are obese, compared with an average across England of 24.2 per cent. One in five 10-year-olds are obese.

David Brake, of Medway Council, said: "To do nothing is not an option. Anything we can do to prevent obesity at an early age is welcome."

VW creates 100 jobs at Sheerness port

CAR giant Volkswagen is to build a multimillion-pound pre-delivery inspection centre at the Port of Sheerness, a move that could create 100 new jobs.

The 10-year-deal will see Volkswagen Group UK work in partnership with the port to develop the new facility.

New supply-chain jobs will be created, while the new centre will also enable the port to increase its annual car imports to more than 50,000.

The port makes up a central part of the Peel Ports Medway Group, which handles up to two million tonnes of cargo each year.

Miles Hearn, port director for Peel Ports Medway, said: "Last year we handled around 330,000 vehicles and this facility creates a step change of 50,000 additional automobiles.

"We have a long-standing relationship with the VW Group and this contract is a huge endorsement of the customer-focused, proactive and positive approach we always work hard to deliver."

Lord of the Rings star shoots Sherlock film

ACTOR Sir Ian McKellen spent the week filming the latest Sherlock Holmes movie in Chatham.

The historic dockyard was designed to look like a war-torn Hiroshima – the Japanese city upon which an atomic bomb was dropped to bring about the end of the Second World War.

The film sees a now-93-year-old Holmes come to terms with his passing years.

The movie, which has not yet been given a title, is based on a screenplay by Mitch Cullin.

It stars Lord of the Rings star Sir Ian, 75, and is directed by Oscar-winning Bill Condon.

It is not the first time the dockyard has played a part in a Sherlock Holmes film. The location was used in the first two Holmes movies starring Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law in 2009 and 2011. Other movies using the site include Les Misérables and the latest Muppets flick.

Popular BBC TV drama Call The Midwife has also used the dockyard's historic building as a backdrop.



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A whole new story as Kent on Sunday enjoys its fresh surroundings

KENT on Sunday moved into its new offices earlier last month – so be sure to use our new address when you want to get in contact with us.

After 10 years in Smeeth, we began a new era for your favourite Kent weekend newspaper when we moved into Kent House in the heart of Ashford town centre.

Kent on Sunday's editorial, advertising and distribution teams are now based at the modern new offices, along with colleagues from our sister title, the glossy Kent Life magazine.

From here we will continue to deliver the finest regional newspaper for the entire county, with all the latest news, leisure, sport, business and your one-stop shop for the best offers from our loyal advertisers.

Archant Kent publisher Simon

Irwin said: "We enjoyed a great period of success at Apple Barn, winning a host of awards over the years and firmly establishing ourselves as a class apart for a free newspaper.

"And we continue to evolve, which is why we're now greatly looking forward to starting the next chapter of our success story."

Which means if you want to get in touch, you'll need to now address all correspondence to:

Kent on Sunday, Archant Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. All email addresses remain the same.

Our telephone numbers have changed, too. For all advertising enquiries, call 01233 653461; for editorial, call 01233 653475; for distribution, call 01233 653470.

• This is a revised version of last week's KoS article.



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Church decision to allow women bishops will 'delight the world'

This week's 'yes' vote by the Synod to ordain woman bishops has restored the faith of many in the Church. **Sarah Linney** spoke to some of those who think that this move is long overdue.

SENIOR figures in the Church of England across the country were universal in their praise for the decision to finally allow women to become bishops this week.

The vote on Monday by the General Synod – the Church's governing body – passed the measure, with more than 80 per cent of votes in favour.

The Bishop of Dover, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott, said the decision should "delight the world".

And it was warmly welcomed by women priests.

The Rev Kes Grant is school chaplain at St Augustine Academy in Maidstone. She admits when the Synod rejected the proposal 20 months ago it shook her faith in the Church.

Speaking to KoS this week, she said: "It's bloody fantastic. It's been a long time coming."

The Church ordained its first two women priests in 1994.

She added: "When that vote didn't go through in 2012, I was absolutely gutted – even though in hindsight it was right because the legislation wasn't right."

"That morning I didn't even know if I wanted to be in the Church of England any more when it couldn't even come into the 20th century, let alone the 21st."

"When you visit your doctor, you don't stop to ask if they are gay or married or a woman. You just see someone because they are qualified for the job. No one bats an eyelid about women in senior jobs in any other section of society."

"The Church really needed to get a grip. Telling people they are not welcome is not what the love of God is all about. When they do things like that, I don't recognise the Jesus of The Bible."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has been a supporter of the proposals and described the vote as "an adventure in faith and hope".

It had been seen as a blow to his predecessor, Dr Rowan Williams, that he had failed to oversee a change he had believed necessary.

Mr Welby said: "I am delighted with the result. It is the completion of what was begun more than 20 years ago."

The Bishop of Dover had been campaigning for women bishops since 2006.

"I am delighted for the Church's sake but more delighted for the world because that's what we are called to serve," he told KoS.

"I have always believed God is calling both men and women."

"This decision says that men and women are equal to God and means the gifts of both men and women in the ministry will be recognised."

Almost 40 years after the Sex Discrimination Act, the opposition to women bishops might seem incomprehensible to many outside the Church.

But those against them say that their stance does have a basis in theology. The Bible records that Jesus's 12 disciples were all men, which some take to mean that only men can hold positions of authority in the Church – or that only a man can represent Christ.

Others refer to the book of Paul in the New Testament, which contains instructions for women to submit to their husbands and the line "the head of woman is man".

There is also the argument that the Church of England should not act unilaterally until other branches of Christianity – including the Catholic and Orthodox churches – are ready to change, too.

Susie Leafe, from the Christian campaign group Reform, said: "We are looking for the Church to follow Biblical principles."

"That means female bishops."

However, as Kent's female vicars pointed out, The Bible has its share of contradictions and is sometimes open to interpretation.

The Rev Kes Grant said: "Yes, the male apostles are the only ones recorded in The Bible, but Jesus sent out 70 people to do his ministry. There's no way that they were all men."

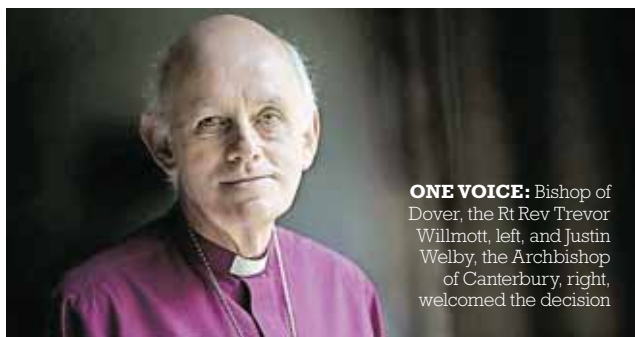
The Rev Canon Clare Edwards, one of the Canterbury diocese's elected members of the General Synod, added: "There are many different interpretations of Paul's words, and they were written in a particular time, with a particular people in mind."

"It's probably not where most scholars would take us today."

However, because of the opposition, the Church has included a caveat with the legislation – that parishes or priests who do not approve can ask to deal with a male bishop instead of a female one, although they will not be able to refuse to recognise female bishops.

Bishop Trevor said: "The Church will always try to hold everyone. We are not seeking to drive people out – we always seek to enable everyone to flourish. The legislation also says that we will seek to offer ministry to those for whom this is a difficulty."

He also said the Church of England was right to pass the legislation without waiting for others to come on board.



ONE VOICE: Bishop of Dover, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott, left, and Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, right, welcomed the decision



"It is not for one church to make judgment on another. We believe this is right for us – those churches make their own decisions," the 64-year-old said.

As a member of the Synod, Canon Clare was able to vote on the legislation – and she voted yes.

"It's really important that we honour the gifts that women bring within all areas of leadership," she told KoS.

"To the Church, the important question is: what does God desire? That's what made me vote the way I

did. People voted in favour because they believe it's the right thing and the will of God."

"We have had conversation, rather than people just standing on either side and shouting their arguments across the divide."

"I didn't hear anyone say they were going to leave the Church over this. Those who spoke against the decision all said they recognised that this was the majority view."

"It's not a perfect package, but women have lived with that for a long time. We have to show confident humility – I'm confident that God wants women to be in all areas of leadership in the church, but I am a human being and I might be wrong."

“ Telling people they are not welcome is not what the love of God is all about. When they do things like that, I don't recognise the Jesus of The Bible ”

Bishop Trevor added: "The Church should not be driven by the world, but it must always pay attention to the world – if we don't we are not fulfilling God's call enough to be his Church."

"We don't just give in to changes in cultures, but we must be able to put forward a faith that has life-giving character. If we ignore the world we shall die. The world couldn't un-

derstand what we did two years ago."

Bob Weldon, vicar of the G7 benefice of churches just outside Ashford, said he was also "100 per cent" in favour of the legislation.

"The moment that Mary sat at the feet of Jesus was a good theological sign. Jesus was a teacher and women sat at his feet – it's a no-brainer," he said.

"When we summoned women to the priesthood, it was a natural consequence to me that they were going to become bishops. You can't give someone £20, then tear it in half and never give them the other half."

"There seems to be a spirit of reconciliation growing in the Church and it is not for those of us who are in favour of it to be triumphal about it."

"The real heroes in the General Synod are the ones who were against it in their hearts but sacrificed that for the unity of the Church."

"We have to respect their views – I am never going to slate them."

■ What do you think? Join the debate and share your views. Write to The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

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REPEATED failings by Kent Police meant they neglected to protect a hairdresser who was murdered by her estranged husband.

The force failed to act adequately even on claims that Ivan Esack, a former detective, had strangled his wife Natalie until she lost consciousness in a previous attack.

The 33-year-old was subsequently stabbed up to 11 times by Esack at her beauty salon in Ashford in front of a colleague on April 30, 2012. He attacked her so viciously that the knife broke.

Now an independent review into the case, published this week, has found officers missed vital opportunities to protect Ms Esack.

However, although they described the force's investigation in the weeks before her death as "insufficiently thorough", her family said they did not blame the police for her death.

The report also pointed out Ms Esack had seemed unwilling to engage with police and had not wanted her husband to be prosecuted, because she did not want him to have a criminal record.

Esack, 38, was jailed for life and ordered to serve a minimum of 28 years in prison in January, last year.

The report found he was not arrested for sending Ms Esack unpleasant texts as far back as October 2011, or for coming round to her father's home, where she was living after she left him, with a knife, or for threatening to kill her, or for historic assaults which she reported to police six months before she died.

Esack, who had problems with cocaine and alcohol and had left Kent Police in 2009, had also abused his wife emotionally.

Two months before her death, he was detained under the Mental Health Act after threatening to kill himself but released when he denied having suicidal feelings.

Staff from the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) were also criticised for not following up Esack's disclosure that he had sent Ms Esack threatening texts.

"It appears Esack did not accept that the marriage was over," the report said.

"He was abusive, threatening and controlling towards Ms Esack. He was extremely jealous and, after their separation, harassed her through persistent texts, phone calls and visits.

"It was known that he had made threats to kill her, that he had been to her address carrying a knife and it was alleged, by a male friend, that in March he had strangled her until she lost consciousness."

The report says Ms Esack should have been assessed as high risk and a plan should have been in place to keep her safe.

But, it said, police failed to collate and share properly all the information they were given and, therefore, the incidents, including the allegation of strangling, were not properly investigated.

When Ms Esack told officers her husband had a shotgun, it took them three weeks to go round to his house and take it off him.

"The incidents should have been investigated more fully, despite Ms Esack's reluctance," the report said.

"Kent Police policy is that officers should not rely wholly on the evidence of the victim when building a case for prosecution. When victims of domestic abuse are reluctant to support a prosecution, officers should nevertheless investigate incidents fully and consider the full range of options at their disposal to try to prevent further abuse."

Police failings revealed in report over killing

An investigation into why tragic Natalie Esack was not protected from her violent husband has revealed a lack of support. **Sarah Linney** and **Chris Murphy** report



FAILINGS: Natalie Esack (above right) was stabbed in Ashford (above) by her estranged husband Ivan Esack (below left). PCC Ann Barnes (below right).



The report said if police had shared information properly with each other, it would have been obvious that they needed to interview people other than Ms Esack, and that her husband might then have been prosecuted and jailed.

But it said it was not possible to conclude that acting differently would have prevented her death.

"Ms Esack's family hope lessons will be learned from this, especially the importance of interviewing family members and friends, as they might have information which a victim of domestic abuse is reluctant to disclose," the report added.

The report made 13 recommendations for Kent Police and KMPT, including that police dealing with domestic abuse should record all relevant information for risk assessments; that if someone other than a victim reports an incident, this should be investigated; and if alleged abusers are known to have guns, officers should consider confiscating them.

Sandra Horley, chief executive of national domestic abuse charity Refuge, described the case as "extremely unsettling".

"There were a number of missed opportunities to protect this terrified woman," she said.

"The police were aware of a number of factors which meant Natalie was in extreme danger – including the fact her husband owned a shotgun. Yet she was never assessed at being at high risk.

"How many more times must we read about missed opportunities and lessons learned? Every week two more women are killed at the hands of current, or former, partners. And in too many of these cases, the police and other agencies failed to provide proper support to desperate women prior to their deaths."

Polly Neate, chief executive of Wom-

en's Aid, called for police to be given more specialist training.

"On average women will experience more than 30 incidents of violence before calling the police. It's therefore vital that mistakes are not made when women do have contact with the police about domestic violence," she said.

"Until every force creates a culture change which encourages officers to identify and signpost support for women experiencing domestic violence, more opportunities will be missed and lives will be lost."

But Deborah Cartwright, chief executive of Margate charity Oasis Domestic Abuse Services, said she did not want to criticise the police.

"On the whole, I think the police response has got much better," she said.

"This just highlights how important it is to have robust risk assessment and safety planning. All the issues mentioned would flag up the fact that someone is at serious risk of harm.

"It seems obvious, but when you have lots of very stretched services all holding different pieces of a jigsaw, it can be difficult to put the pieces together."

Detective Superintendent Tim Smith, from Kent Police, said: "The review has rightly highlighted missed opportunities when investigating the domestic abuse Natalie suffered.

"As a result, policy changes have been made and been in place for some time now."

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes said: "Above all I would like to extend my sympathy to Natalie Esack's family. I cannot even begin to think what it is like to lose someone you love in such tragic circumstances.

"I am disappointed about some of the findings in the report about Kent Police, but I am absolutely confident that the work to make improvements in areas highlighted has been carried out and the recommendations are all being met."



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OUTSPOKEN former Government minister Ann Widdecombe says she does not believe there was a widespread cover-up of a child abuse ring during the 1980s in Westminster.

Her comments come as a probe into the claims continues, despite the decision this week of retired judge Baroness Butler-Sloss to step down amid mounting pressure over her family links to the original case.

Her late brother, Sir Michael Havers, was attorney general in the 1980s and part of the Cabinet during the period the claims cover.

Now Miss Widdecombe, who represented her Maidstone and the Weald constituency from 1987 until she stood down in 2010, says she doubts steps were taken to protect the guilty and the Establishment as a consequence – as claimed by former Cabinet minister Norman Tebbit earlier this month.

However, she says that although child abuse would always have been considered horrific, some of the boundaries around what was acceptable had become blurred by the sexual revolution of the 1960s.

"In the 1970s, the Paedophile Information Exchange was openly affiliated to the National Council for Civil Liberties," Miss Widdecombe told Kent on Sunday this week.

"People like [Labour politicians] Harriet Harman and Patricia Hewitt – who were very senior within the council – did not see it in the same light as we would now.

"It was all part of the libertarian movement at the time. There had been a great expansion of libertarianism at the end of the 1960s and in the 1970s, and the age of consent was seen as something rather oppressive. We wouldn't have any truck with that now."

She says that society is far more aware of paedophilia these days.

"Sex with a child was regarded as something horrific, but we didn't have the attitude we have now, which is that you have to be vigilant," Miss Widdecombe said.

"It was the mid-1990s before we got round to having a Sex Offenders' Register in this country, and our knowledge grew between those two points.

"Patricia Hewitt has since said she was quite naïve, and I think that's true of the times. In 1983, the Paedophile Information Exchange went underground – society as a whole wasn't willing to accept it. Today it wouldn't last five minutes."

The lack of awareness of paedophilia extended to Westminster, where, Miss Widdecombe said, the vibrant rumour mill was just not grinding out accusations of such horrendous goings-on.

"I didn't know about Cyril Smith [late former Lib Dem MP who is ac-

'Nothing sinister' about abuse files going astray

Sarah Linney speaks to former Maidstone MP Ann Widdecombe about claims of an Establishment cover-up of child abuse in Westminster during the 1980s...



DIFFERENT ERA: Ann Widdecombe remains convinced there was no planned cover-up

cused of abusing young boys). I never heard a single rumour about that at Westminster," she added.

"One of his best friends was utterly poleaxed by it and initially he was saying he didn't believe it.

"I have my doubts about some of the stories in the Press saying there were wild orgies at Westminster. If that had been going on, the rumour mill was such that it would have been round Westminster like fire.

"If there were a number of people privy to it, something of that magnitude would have got out. I think there are probably one or two individuals who were engaged in this.

"It is terribly easy to be wise in retrospect, but you can only say there was a cover up if people knew. It certainly seems as if the police did – and that is one of the most baffling things."

She said she would have reported anything she was aware of to the

chief whip, who was expected to deal with such matters – and leave them to deal with it, assuming there was no proof of the allegations if nothing happened.

But she said that while scandals might have been swept under the carpet, illegal and abusive acts would not have been – and pointed to the case of MP Harvey Proctor, who was charged with gross indecency in 1986 over claims he held sadomasochistic parties involving young men, as evidence politicians were prosecuted when necessary.

Although the youngest man involved was 17, the age of consent for gay people at the time was 21.

"If they were hearing that Cyril Smith liked young men, that would have been dealt with by the whip office discreetly," Miss Widdecombe added.

"But if the whispers had been about underage boys, that would

have been a very different matter.

"I am sure there was always a reluctance to take things outside Westminster. The whips' first instinct will always be to handle things as quietly as possible. But something utterly horrific, like abuse in a care home, is not the sort of thing that we would have swept under the carpet – there are limits.

"They will do damage limitation but there is no way they would cover something like that up."

She said she didn't believe that the disappearance of MP Geoffrey Dickens' dossier of 114 files, which contained allegations of a child abuse network after being presented to minister Leon Brittan, was evidence of a cover-up.

"I don't think there was anything sinister about it," said Miss Widdecombe, who now lives in Devon.

"I think it would have been looked

at when it came in. They might have sent it to be looked at and it didn't come back, or if anything was flimsy they might have thought there was nothing in it.

"Numerous files are destroyed every single year. I suspect this was not a deliberate cover up, it was just one of those things. The only people who know are those who handled the file."

She says she believes Westminster has been damaged by the claims – but is confident a scandal of this nature could not happen now.

"The atmosphere of the times is completely different. There's been a stirring of the conscience towards children and people are much more alert," she said.

"They are not interested in the libertarian argument. Everywhere you look institutions putting procedures in place. People are reacting to what went on in the past."

INQUIRY CONTROVERSY

BARONESS Butler-Sloss was right to step down – but she would also have been the right person to chair the inquiry, Miss Widdecombe said.

"The controversy that was being stirred up would have been a distraction," she said.

"In her position I would have done the same.

"But they need someone with a very good and extensive knowledge of the law, and I do think she's the person with the best knowledge.

"She has a lot of experience in these sorts of areas – she chaired the Cleveland Inquiry [into cases of suspected sexual abuse in the Middlesbrough area in the 1980s]."

In a rare moment of agreement, her sentiments were echoed by former Tory leader Michael Howard, former MP for Folkestone.

"Baroness Butler-Sloss is a woman of unimpeachable integrity," said Mr Howard, who represented Folkestone and Hythe from 1983 to 2010.

Miss Widdecombe once famously described her former Kent colleague as having "something of the night about him".



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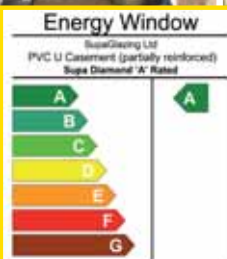
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Dungeness has become defined by the power

Will nuclear plant continue to be powerful generator for local economy?

ON A damp day on the south coast, there is perhaps nowhere quite like Dungeness.

Surrounded by a sprawling nature reserve, the shingle banks slope down towards the relentless waves which roll in and out upon its shores.

On the one side, there are a gaggle of ramshackle buildings – converted train carriages now the most unusual of homes – and a picture postcard lighthouse. On the other? One of the most imposing buildings in the county.

The nuclear power station is not pretty to look at – it's a concrete giant which can loom from the sea mist, trailing behind it a line of pylons like a spider's thread. But it generates enough power to comfortably support the equivalent of the entire Kent population as it pumps into the National Grid.

But while it will win no beauty contests – unlike the unique atmosphere of the community which surrounds it – it continues to support the livelihoods of thousands of people.

Yet given the strict safety requirements which surround nuclear plants, in just four years the plant could close – and in doing so put 550 people directly employed at the site out of work, and an almost equal number of contracted workers.

But, by the end of the year, it is looking increasingly likely the plant will get an extension to its operator's licence until 2028.

Its future hangs on a change in regulations surrounding the graphite bricks which surround the nuclear reactor. Unable to be replaced, once they reach agreed safety limits the reactor is forced to close. Extending their life, extends the power station's too.

The ultimate decision will not be taken lightly. Especially by those who live and work on the Romney Marsh who are so reliant on it as a place of work.

According to EDF Energy, the French energy group that operates the plant, the power station injects some £30 million into the local economy each year.

It first reactor was built in 1965 – Dungeness A. In 2006, it shut its doors for the final time and the site is now being slowly dismantled.

Dungeness B started pumping power into the National Grid in 1983.

A third reactor, Dungeness C, has long been mooted, but remains something of a pipe dream.

Local Conservative councillor Victoria Dawson, whose ward on Shepway District Council covers the plant, explains: "The plant has added so much to the local area over the years. It would be catastrophic if it were to close.

"So many jobs would be lost and it would devastate the local economy."

Having been such a significant player over the years, many families have become reliant on it.

Alex Paterson, 30, is a contract manager at Dungeness who lives just down the road in Lydd.

He said: "I'm the third generation of my family to work at the site. Both my fiancée and I work at the station and I've been working here since 2003. My grandfather worked here when it was built and my father too. He retires this year.

"Both served over 30 years at the plant.

"I have a big family in the area, most of whom have worked at the station at one time or another. My mother used to be the station director's personal assistance."

The plant has certainly ridden the waves of contrasting public opinion over the years.

The meltdown of Chernobyl in Russia in 1986, raised fears over the future and safety of nuclear energy and the mood of public opinion went against nuclear until a change in thinking in recent years elevated nuclear back to an acceptable force – amid mounting concerns of how we source power and the closure of coal and gas-fired plants.

Today it is seen far more as a clean, low carbon and reliable source of energy.

Martin Pearson, the station director, explained: "Dungeness B is key to keeping the lights on and mitigating the energy gap expected at the end of the decade.

"We can generate up to 1,100MW of low carbon power which is equivalent to about 1.5 million homes, about the same number as in Kent.

"This is a serious contribution to helping the UK meet its carbon reduction targets – in 2013 EDF Energy's nuclear output avoided more than 40m tonnes of CO2 which is equivalent to removing over 60 per cent of cars from the UK's roads."

But its limited life-span is always looming on the horizon.

“ Dungeness B is key to keeping the lights on and mitigating the energy gap expected at the end of the decade ”

Martin Pearson,

Station director at Dungeness B

plant which sits upon its shingle shores. But its life-span is now subject to debate, reports **Jamie Weir**



STARK BEAUTY: The nuclear power complex at Dungeness dominates the surrounding area, and may continue to do so well until the next decade at the very least if EDF has its licence extended

Tory MP for Folkestone and Hythe, Damian Collins, has been working hard to try and find a solution for the area.

He told KoS: "With Dungeness B, I'm hoping there will be an extension to its life announced by the end of the year. The nuclear industry is crucial for Shepway.

"It's a huge industry. Overall, about 1,000 jobs, either directly at the plant, or indirectly helping to serve the plant, have been created in the Shepway area. It's highly skilled work as well, and Dungeness has been incredibly impor-

tant for employment and the economy of the area."

EDF successfully applied recently to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – the nuclear industry regulator – for a limit to be raised on graphite bricks which line the core of the reactor.

Over time, radiation bombards the bricks, slowly breaking them down, causing them to lose weight.

As the bricks can't be replaced easily, most

nuclear power stations are closed when they have lost a set amount of weight. The ONR had previously set the limit for around 6.2 per cent for Dungeness B.

However, it has recently increased this limit to eight per cent – a change which many hope will enable EDF to extend its operator's licence from 2018 by ten years to 2028.

But not everyone likes the change. Green MEP for the south east, Keith Taylor, is concerned about the tweaking of the regulations. He said: "The station is due for decommission-

ing in the near future, and in my view, the sooner that happens, the better.

"To me, it strikes a chord of concern that safety limits have been changed at the plant. Safety limits should not be changed in order to extend the life of a nuclear power plant. We shouldn't be messing about with this sort of thing."

While the station's safety record has been good, it has certainly not been without incident. Earlier this year, it was revealed the reactor

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had been shut down for five months last year, amid concerns the site's flood defences may not be able to stop an event akin to the earthquake in Japan which caused such problems at the Fukushima power plant. There have been a number of other minor incidents over the years too.

Dungeness C may be forever shelved as a consequence. It had been put forward on a shortlist presented to the Government in 2009 but concerns over any flood risk appear to have put paid to it being given the nod.

Not that political pressure isn't still being applied.

Station director Mr Pearson told KoS: "Although Dungeness was not on the National Policy Statement for sites strategically suitable for new nuclear power stations by 2025, EDF Energy feels the site has the potential for new nuclear development in the future.

"At the moment the company is focused on gaining life extension for Dungeness B."

Added MP Damian Collins: "I'm still really hopeful that the area will be chosen for a new power plant. There's a lot of enthusiasm and international investment for new nuclear sites in the UK and a new Dungeness C would be great for the area. It would bring money and jobs to the area at a time when it needs a boost."

Those living locally have long since accepted the good and the bad the plant brings.

Mike Jones is landlord at the Britannia Inn, which sits on the shingle just 300 metres away from the power station. He said: "When I first got here



DIRECTOR: Martin Pearson

safety was on my mind, and I did feel a bit concerned at times.

"But now, I'm not in the least bit worried about safety, even after the graphite brick announcement. The plant seems totally safe. There are regular checks carried out, and they tell us everything is fine and we've never experienced anything negative being here. That's the reality for locals in the area."

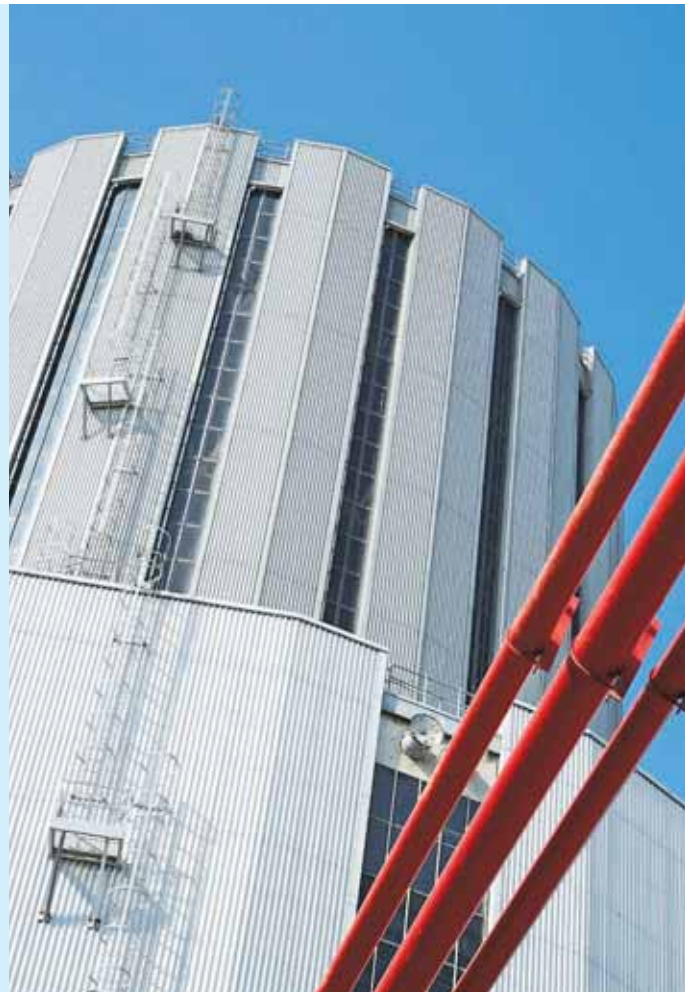
It has certainly transformed the area. Before the plant was built it was a remote and sparsely populated, with fishing its main industry.

The fear is that without the plant, the future may be as equally low-key.

Concludes Cllr Dawson: "We are all just hoping that Dungeness C is given the green light by government. Without that, the future could be very bleak for the area. We need the power station. It's such a huge local employer, we really need to keep it here."

Dungeness: Facts & figures

- There are two power plants at the Dungeness site.
- Dungeness A opened in 1965. It had two separate reactors capable of producing a combined 438MW.
- Dungeness A closed in 2006, and is now in the process of being decommissioned. The site is scheduled to be cleared by 2111.
- Dungeness B also has two separate reactors. The first of these began generating power in 1983, with the second coming online in 1985.
- Putting Dungeness' annual generation into perspective, this amount of power avoids around 3.4 million tonnes of CO2 being produced. That's the same as taking 1.5 million (five per cent) passenger cars off the UK's roads.
- Dungeness B is planned to be decommissioned in 2018 but if given approval, will continue until 2028. A decision is expected later this year.



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THREE years ago Hugo Fenwick was let in on a secret. Part of the famous family behind the Fenwick retail chain, he was informed that he would, in 2014, be taking on one of the county's most prestigious roles.

Sworn to the strictest of secrecy, he had to keep under his hat that he had been nominated – and accepted – to serve a year as the High Sheriff of Kent.

Not bad for someone who grew up in Northumberland and whose only experience of Kent until he moved here in his late 20s was visiting major businesses in his role as an accountant.

Yet there is no denying Mr Fenwick's passion for his adopted county – or his clear relish for a largely ceremonial role which he himself admits is understood by very few.

"We need to be known by everyone – it is true the man on the street doesn't really know what the role involves," he says as he finds time to sit down with KoS during a year which has seen his diary bulging from morning to night, given his new responsibility.

The truth, of course, is that the High Sheriff role is a relic of the past – a time when the holder of the position would be the principal law enforcement officer in the county.

It is a tradition which stretches back to before the Norman Conquest and today remains the oldest office by royal appointment.

Over the years, however, the role has become so diluted it is today more about highlighting charities and trying to shift the spotlight onto some key areas rather than wielding any real power.

Today its formal aspect consists of attending royal visits to the county and supporting the judiciary.

It's not, however, one for the faint-hearted.

While it's easy to suggest those who get the role are far from your average Tom, Dick or Harry, it comes with the expectation of being funded out of your own pocket.

"You have to have the means," the 49-year-old father-of-four explains, "as the public purse contributes nothing towards the post, it's not an inexpensive year if you want to do the job properly."

"There are no expenses, no support team, no cars; you drive yourself around."

As group trading director of the family-owned retail giant Fenwick, he is certainly a man of means.

Founded in 1882 by John James Fenwick in Newcastle, it is today valued at around £450million.

Its empire stretches from the North, down through New Bond Street in London and extends into Kent through its stores in

“My interest is to have as many initiatives to stop these young people falling into the criminal justice system in the first place...”

Hugo Fenwick,
High Sheriff of Kent

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High Sheriff rides in with a famous name and big ambitions



HIGH SHERIFF:
Hugo Fenwick
and his
wife Kate

His family is behind a multimillion-pound retail giant and he has just taken over one of the county's most prestigious roles. So just why is Hugo Fenwick spending much of his time now trying to prevent youngsters from falling into the criminal justice system? **Chris Britcher** meets him to find out...

Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells.

Certainly Mr Fenwick has had a privileged background, and his voice and mannerisms are all finely tuned by a life of independent schools and financial security.

He's tall and broad shouldered, and is very much in the mould of the stereotypical image of Kent's influential hierarchy.

Yet while it would be easy to pigeon-hole him as one for whom life rarely takes him into circles outside the privileged few, Mr Fenwick – one of the youngest to ever hold the post – is putting his money where his mouth is and is clearly determined to make a difference during his one-year term of office.

Since taking over the role in April – following a small ceremony at his local church in Egerton, near Ashford – he has already visited a number of prisons, sat in on two murder trials and visited a number of schools.

Trying to prevent youngsters from embarking on actions which could result in a life caught up in the criminal justice system is one of Mr Fenwick's key aims.

"My principle area of interest is what can be generally described as early intervention," he explains, with careful consideration.

He's certainly no stranger to education. As a member of City livery firm Mercers – an organisation not dissimilar to the Freemasons, with its trade associations roots – it has opened a number of doors of opportunity for him courtesy of the education initiatives it is involved in.

He explains: "I've done a lot of research recently – and there is a paper by [charitable organisation] New Philanthropy Capital which shows how invaluable it is to put funding – philanthropic or government – early on into people's lives, particularly in deprived areas."

"As the Queen's representative of the criminal justice system in the county, my interest is to have as many initiatives to stop these young people falling into the criminal justice system in the first place."

"Because once they do they so often re-offend and the cost of that to society and government is huge."

"If we can early intervene by mentoring or providing role models at primary and secondary schools, expanding schemes like the Family Nurse Partnership – an initiative for young mums who are helped with parenting – it can make a difference."

"But above all is to break that inter-generational continuum of low aspiration. Because all too often it means they don't get their GCSEs or know where to go to and become one of the Neet [not in employment, education or training] statistics."

But surely, with that accent and background, is it not difficult for him to connect with people inhabiting a social spectrum a country mile from his?

"I've been fortunate to have a very privileged background but I hope what I've learned from my work away from retailing is that I have an understanding in the education system," he says.

"I've also been vice chairman for last eight years at Canterbury College, for example."

"I can't claim to know all the answers but so often you can be a listener and pick up who would be



COUNTY CONCERNS: Hugo Fenwick's family own high-profile stores in both Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells

useful for people to meet or which organisation to put them in contact with.”

He adds: “The only thing I would say is I’ve been a governor of a school in a deprived area of Birmingham [through his involvement with Mercers] for several years which has been very successful.

“What has always encouraged me is that the children start out at Year 7 exactly the same regardless of if they are starting a grammar or non-selective.

“But you soon learn the problems and it’s so important to try and sort out the conduct problems and address them – they always point to home in some way or the other and can, therefore, point to some pastoral support. Whether that is to make them learn the right vocational skills or to provide the emotional support they lack at home.”

He’s spent recent weeks touring schools and seeing various projects being rolled out designed at breaking the dangerous cycle.

“It is an enormous task,” he reflects, “and you can only chip away at it – you can’t solve it overnight. But it is good to recognise people in this field and what people are trying to do about it.”

It was 10 years ago when his interest in education became more than just passing when he became involved in his children’s school.

He explains: “My enduring interest is as chairman of governors at a small independent school – Spring Grove in Wye.

“It was on its uppers when eight of us took it over, put some loans in, and

turned it into a charitable trust.

“At that stage I knew little about education, but you learn on the job.

“That was of great interest... to help an organisation just about to fold, but with great potential. We brought it together to make sure it has thrived since. Numbers have more than doubled since and we’re very proud.

“If we achieve it there, it is interesting to see if we can do the same for any aspect of the county.”

The difference, of course, between a pleasant public school in a leafy village, and a rough and tumble primary or secondary in a deprived area can be considerable. Mr Fenwick is aware of the gulf and insists the same principles apply.

“It is so cheering when you engage with these children, particularly in less advantageous areas,” he says. “They all have such great potential and getting that spark to make them engaged is essential.

“A lot of these children have not

“It is an enormous task and you can only chip away at it – you can’t solve it overnight. It is good to recognise what people are trying to do about it...”

Hugo Fenwick, on efforts to give youngsters a prosperous future

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Process of selecting a High Sheriff

WITH its roots dating back hundreds of years, it is perhaps not entirely surprising that the pomp and ceremony around the selection of a High Sheriff is rather archaic.

There is a High Sheriff in every county, with a predecessor nominating a candidate he or she believes would be suitable.

The nominations are then dealt

with through the Presiding Judge of the Circuit and the Privy Council for consideration by the Sovereign in Council.

The annual nominations of three prospective High Sheriffs for each county are made in a meeting of the Lords of the Council in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice presided over by the Lord

Chief Justice on November 12 each year.

Subsequently, the selection of new High Sheriffs is made annually at a meeting of the Privy Council by the Queen in March. She literally 'pricks' the appointee's name with a bodkin.

Explains Mr Fenwick: "It is a wonderfully ancient tradition.

"Once the sovereign pricks all high sheriffs on this piece of parchment then you are formally in post.

"It's unusual as it's in the gift of the sovereign rather than prime minister or Government – same as for the Lord Lieutenant."

The appointment of High Sheriff is non-political.

been set boundaries by poor parenting or lack of parents, but get them engaged and you'll be surprised at what can be achieved."

Hugo Fenwick and his young family moved to a home close to Dodding-

ton, near Sittingbourne, back in 1993. Swale, he says, remains close to his heart. Since then, they have moved to Egerton.

They moved to the county as Mr Fenwick came down to oversee the

transformation of the Riceman's store in Canterbury and its subsequent adoption of the Fenwick brand name, as well as being able to keep a close eye on the Tunbridge Wells store.

Born and bred in Northumberland,

it was always his destiny to follow in his family's footsteps as part of the retail empire.

Keen to prove his worth first, he attended university and trained to become a chartered accountant, work-

“It's such an honour to take it on in such a prestigious county so it's lovely to be able to make a difference and give something back”

Hugo Fenwick, on his feelings on being asked to be High Sheriff

ing for the highly respected Ernst & Young.

"I was always lucky enough to want to go into the family business," he says. "I'm fifth generation.

"But I think the most important thing of all is to work somewhere different first. So I did that and established myself. I feel very comfortable in the role that I am in and that I'm an asset to the business. If you come into a business with a silver spoon in your mouth that's where the problem is.

"Funnily enough, when working as an accountant I did some work for Shepherd Neame. I remember spending one summer sat above the White Horse in Boughton with the year end figures.

"Not surprising, I fell in love with Kent.

"So when I had the opportunity of moving back to Kent, I jumped at it."

He'd also spent time in Medway – working in the offices now occupied by the council, overlooking the river.

He moved into the family business

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PAINT A FUTURE: Mr Fenwick is among those pushing for an arts school to add to Margate's thriving artistic scene

« PAGE 21

in his mid-20s and has never looked back.

What's more, Kent is very much now his home.

"I know both parts of the county pretty well from the business, so most parts of the county I have some familiarity with.

"And over the last couple of months I've got to know more areas."

Like many before him, he's become interested in Margate – and is cheer-leading a plan to bring an art school to the area.

"I've been up to Margate a number of times to see the Turner Contemporary. I'm particularly interested in the regeneration of Margate, particularly through art.

"I'm a patron of the gallery but I'm just as interested in the number of galleries around Margate and wheth-

er with an arts school and the quality of light there is, it's the perfect place for artists to gather.

"Perhaps that could be a different way to regenerate the town rather than traditional tourism.

"It is going to need the success of Dreamland as well to cope with a more mainstream clientele but I think it acts as a halo to develop another strand.

"I think if we can push for an arts school to get under way that could add a dimension to the development of galleries in the Old Town area.

"But Margate's problems run deeper than that, significant social problems – Cliftonville and so on. I think it at least has some crumbs of comfort there."

The nature of his new role means he has to sit on the political fence.

"The High Sheriff ought to be apolitical but I think I can be a flag waver

for initiatives the council wants raised to a higher profile – so everyone is aware of it."

He's certainly not taken the easy route during this time in office – tackling some of the biggest social and economic issues affecting the county.

Not that he has any regrets of the little free time he had being consumed by his High Sheriff duties.

"It's such an honour to be nominated for the role but I've certainly had to restrict my holiday time this year," he says.

"I have four children all under 17 so they're not overly thrilled by it.

"But for all individuals who have been asked to take on the role of High Sheriff it's wonderful. It's such an honour to take it on in such a prestigious county so it's lovely to be able to make a difference and give something back."

FROM JOYS OF LE TOUR...

WHEN Hugo Fenwick watches the Tour de France take to the mountains, he knows exactly what it feels like.

Because as a keen cyclist he has completed some of the most challenging and gruelling routes on two wheels – including one of the Tour's most infamous climbs.

"I love cycling," he admits. "I've done a few of the Sportives in Kent [long-distance rides which are the equivalent to a marathon for a runner] which are fun.

"I've been over the Alps before. I did Zurich to Venice which was over five days and raised a lot of money for multiple

sclerosis about three to four years ago.

"And last year I went up Mont Blanc 2, which is a stage of the Tour de France and is something of a rite of passage for cyclists."

And he intends to ensure he has a sporting challenge as part of his year as High Sheriff.

"My aim is to cycle from Dartford to Dungeness – doing the circumference of the county.

"I'm aiming to work with some councillors to get that sorted and to go along the Heritage Trail. I'm hoping to do it with a judge I know, and I'll do that near the back end of the year. We'll do it probably over about four days."

...TO HOLDING COURT

IT IS best known as being Henry VIII's favourite sport as a youth, but real tennis also holds a very special place in the heart of Hugo Fenwick.

It is the racquet sport dating back hundreds of years from which regular tennis spawned. Now rarely played, there are less than 100 courts worldwide.

"I've always wanted to get real tennis into Kent. There is only one court in the county and that is under private ownership.

"I'd love to see one of the buildings converted to accommodate a court."

He's a dab hand at the fore-runner to the traditional game too.

"We do have a website and I think I'm 4,000th in the world – but funny enough I play much less.

"Normally, I'd play twice a week at Lord's Cricket Ground but I'm so busy now I don't often get the chance.

"I think Kent is the only one of the Home Counties which lacks such a court.

"Naturally it is a little esoteric sport – but it's very athletic, and very challenging and very much a deserving precursor to the lawn game."

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If you want to beat the rest... be the best

When the Conservatives unveiled Craig Mackinlay as their candidate for Thanet South in the General Election, the move appeared designed to combat the possibility that Ukip leader Nigel Farage would compete for the seat. But do the Tories have the wrong approach? Reporter **Sarah Linney** gives her view.



SO THANET South's new Conservative candidate, Craig Mackinlay, wants his mate Nigel Farage to play nicely and not field anyone against him at the General Election.

You can see the logic behind it. Mr Mackinlay is a Eurosceptic – so much so, in fact, he was a member of Ukip for 12 years and even briefly its leader.

Rather than split the Eurosceptic voters and let the seat go to Labour, he argues, the cause would be best served by Ukip standing aside and allowing everyone who wants Britain to come out of the EU to concentrate their support behind one candidate.

Which would, of course, be the Tory one.

But politics doesn't work like that. And nor should it.

Mr Mackinlay is undoubtedly someone with a great desire to serve the community of Kent.

But announcing a Eurosceptic candidate in one of the seats where Ukip enjoy their strongest support is an act of astonishing transparency by the Tories. They are clearly terrified – so much so that they have temporarily



forgotten the advice about not showing fear in front of your enemy.

Perhaps they have reason to: Ukip have won the last two elections in Thanet, attracting 46 per cent of the vote at the European polls and decimating the Tories in the county council elections, taking seven seats and leaving them with no representation.

And in a Survation poll in South Thanet last November on voting intentions in a General Election, the Conservatives were in third place, behind Ukip.

On the other hand, a General Elec-

tion is very different to any other election. Protest voters who have decided to give the government a kicking in what they (wrongly) see as other, less important, elections often come back to the fold, and if the economy continues to pick up, the Tories could find their support grows.

Of course, the Tories haven't offered to stand aside themselves in a noble quest to serve the Eurosceptic cause.

And they are missing the point of democracy when they ask Ukip to do so. Democracy is about voters having a completely free choice. Anyone who wants to stand can stand, and in theory the best man or woman wins.

They are also demonstrating the same lack of understanding of voters that saw the main parties do so badly at the Euro elections in the first place.

People didn't just vote Ukip because they were worried about European integration, though for many that was a part of it. They voted for them because they felt unable to support the Conservatives, Labour or the Lib Dems – because they felt totally disconnected from the three big parties

that are supposed to represent us.

Putting up a Eurosceptic candidate will undoubtedly draw some disaffected Tories back to the fold, but it won't be enough for people who, for whatever reason, feel disillusioned with the party as a whole.

It also won't be enough for people who no longer trust the Tories on Europe.

But the most important point is this. If the Tories want to win, they do not just need to defeat Ukip, but Labour and the Lib Dems, too. And to do that they need to do more, far more, than trying to usher their rivals out of the picture.

They need to be the best. They need to be the party with the best policies, the party with which voters empathise the most, the party which ordinary people believe most strongly will make this country a better place.

That is how you win anything. You do better than everyone else. And if the Tories want to win not just South Thanet but a majority in the General Election, then they rather quickly need to start working out how they are going to do that.

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SHOW-STOPPERS: Despite the inclement weather, more than 75,000 people visited this year's Kent County Show at the Detling Showground, highlighting the county's traditionally strong rural roots

Poor weather can't stop county show crowds

By Maria Chiorando
maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

ORGANISERS of last weekend's Kent County Show have declared it a big success with visitor numbers topping 75,000 over the three days.

The event – a celebration of the county's agricultural backbone – took place in Detling last Friday through to Sunday.

And despite inclement weather, the figures emulated those of 2013, when the event was bathed in good weather.

Lucy Hegarty, the show manager, explained: "We work on the show all

year round, so it's hard to see the bad weather when it's something you've spent so much time investing in.

"But there's nothing we can do about it and we did have a couple of afternoons of beautiful sunshine."

As ever, the show saw some changes – one of the main ones being the introduction of a larger flower marquee.

Ms Hegarty said: "The flower marquee was extremely successful and it is something we will look at expanding for next year.

"General feedback was excellent – people were pleased to see a real return to our rural roots. We always try and make changes very year. We have to, to try and keep it fresh.

"This year we also had the pole-

climbing competition, which was very popular, as was the extended woodland area."

And it may be a long way off, but planning for the 2015 event is already under way.

"There are always things that need improving," explained Ms Hegarty.

"Before we know exactly what needs to be better, we need to have a careful look at how everything went, but there are probably going to be some tweaks in the layout of some of the areas."

The three-day extravaganza is well known for showcasing the best of Kentish food and drink, which is exhibited in the Produced in Kent area.

Produced in Kent is an organisa-

tion that seeks to support and endorse local producers, who are creating high-quality goods.

Pork-producer David Law, who owns Independent Trotters in Maidstone, was a stallholder at the event.

He said: "This was our first time at the show and the organisation was excellent. We had a lot of people coming over to look at our products.

"Produced in Kent work very hard on behalf of us and we were very happy to be exhibiting at the show."

Local ale-producer Pierluigi Rossi, managing director of R&R Ales, near Sandwich, agreed.

He said: "The show was very busy and there are very varied customers here. The organisation has been great

and there has been a lot of interest in our product. We will definitely be back next year."

The chairman of the show, Kevin Attwood, was also feeling positive about the event, saying: "The show went very well. There was an excellent buzz and the attendance levels were similar to last year.

"We had hoped for slightly higher figures, but of course the weather plays a big part in that. When people see the forecast is poor, they will tend to take notice of that.

"Despite the rain, the car parks held up very well and throughout the grounds there wasn't too much mud.

"Overall, it went very well – it is still the standout event in Kent."

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Supporting role is under looked

Following last week's column by education consultant Peter Read over the departure of headteachers and the quality of the county's schools, **Roger Gough**, Kent County Council cabinet member for education and health reform responds with a defence of the local authority's handling of its schools.



EDUCATION CHIEF: Roger Gough

PARENTS across Kent would not be impressed if Kent County Council said it would take its foot off the accelerator and ease up on standards in the classroom.

Every child only gets one chance at school. And with this in mind, KCC will always seek to pursue the best standards when it comes to classroom teaching, the school environment, and leadership in education.

Kent has seen really strong improvement in the performance of its schools over the last three years.

Three years ago, just over half of Kent's 600 schools (54 per cent) received a good or better Ofsted rating.

As we stand today, more than three quarters of schools (76 per cent) are rated good or better.

As a result, 56,000 more children are now attending a good or better school than in 2012.

This has only been possible because of the strong partnership that exists between headteachers and KCC.

With each child only getting that

one chance at education, it is vital everyone involved has high expectations for all pupils in Kent schools.

Strong, quality leadership plays a vital role in this improvement and we have a wealth of high quality headteachers in Kent. Many of them are now effectively leading more than one school.

Having high expectations is something that brings big rewards for pupils and the schools they go to – and it comes with its own set of challenges and pressures.

The council has a responsibility to strike a balance between supporting headteachers to be strong leaders and holding headteachers to account when pupils are not making progress as they should.

The vast majority of headteachers have risen to the challenge for improvement across Kent schools and the data reflects that.

Sometimes the council needs to work with governing bodies to make sure each school has the most effective leadership possible.

In some cases, this has meant a change in leadership.

Headteachers have given us positive feedback about the support, advice, training and challenge for school improvement in Kent.

And we have worked actively with headteachers to make sure they lead the education system in Kent – and its improvement – through the Kent Association of Headteachers.

Kent is now significantly above the national average in the Early Years Foundation Stage and GCSE results, also just above average on Key Stage 1 and for the first time in many years we are in line with the national performance at Key Stage 2.

This has not come about without significant support and challenge from the local authority and engagement by effective headteachers in the improvement agenda.

■ **What do you think?** Share your views and join the debate. Write to The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



IMPROVING: County's schools

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Norton Knatchbull School students, parents and staff celebrate IB results

Students, staff and parents at the Norton Knatchbull School gathered on Sunday 6th July 2014 to receive their International Baccalaureate results.



Picture (from left to right): Mark Cox-Smith, Fenton Christmas, Scott Bates, Courtney Perham and Georgeos Hardo

There was much to celebrate! Head of Sixth Form Susan Farrant explained: "At Norton Knatchbull School we introduced the IB Diploma curriculum in 2006 because it provides an exciting and challenging education and is an excellent preparation for university study. Our IB students not only

maintained breadth of study and exploration but also learnt vital skills of communication, analysis, enquiry and organisation. We know that particularly the high-ranking Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, are very keen indeed to offer places to students who have such a strong academic and wider skills profile."

Our IB students achieved strong results again this year. The International Baccalaureate works in points rather than grades, and you can see the A level equivalents the students have been awarded next to the IB points.

Headteacher Susanne Staab said: "The school is very proud to have



Picture: Top achievers Georgeos Hardo and Francis Jasiewicz

enabled so many students to study and benefit from the breadth and rigour of the IB programme. Very sadly, education funding cuts have led to a number of schools discontinuing this route and we are no exception. Looking forward, we are delighted to

Student Name	IB points	A level equivalent
JASIEWICZ Francis	41	4A*, 1A at AS
HARDO Georgeos	40	4A*, A at AS
BAVERSTOCK Reuben	39	4A*, 1B at AS
COX-SMITH Mark	39	4A*, 1B at AS
BATES Scott	38	4A*
DAWSON Matthew	37	4A*
PERHAM Courtney	37	4A*
CHRISTMAS Fenton	35	3A*, 1A
KING James	34	3A*, 1B
LUKKIEN Jip	34	3A*, 1B
SLATER Ciaran	34	3A*, 1B
HARMAN Leon	33	3A*, 1C
RAESIDE Edward	33	3A*, 1C
SOUTHBY Nicole	33	3A*, 1C
BANDY George	32	3A*, 1A at AS
MUSHONGA Tsitsidzashe	30	3A*, 1B at AS
YOUNG Ryan	30	3A*, 1B at AS
UNDERDOWN Jack	29	3A*
FOURNILLIER Nathaniel	28	3A*
WALLACE Zoe	27	3A*
SKELTON Remy	25	2A*, 1B
CARROLL Helena	22	2A*

offer an enhanced A level route featuring 34 subject choices with the AQA Baccalaureate at its core. This exceptional post-16 programme combines the rigour of traditional A levels with the breadth and skills focus of the International Baccalaureate, and is attractive to a large number of young people looking to achieve an outstanding education."



Picture: The Headteacher and school staff with several of their IB students

Assistant Headteacher Jamie MacLean concluded: "We are really proud of all our IB students. They have worked hard for their success and will leave school well equipped for the challenges of university study and the workplace. Several of the young people are planning on taking a gap year before making further plans. A larger number are keen to embark on university courses straight away, and of those, over 60% are set to take up places at prestigious Russell Group universities. We wish them the very best for the future."

AT 8.27am on September 22, 1989, a 15lb bomb detonated in a changing room at the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal.

The sound of the blast could be heard for miles around, leaving windows shaking and a plume of smoke billowing above the normally quiet seaside town.

The recreational centre in which the bomb was planted on a timer device was completely flattened. A neighbouring accommodation block was destroyed, the remainder of the base damaged and even nearby homes hit.

But the human cost was more significant. Ten marines – most of them trapped in the destroyed building – were killed at the scene. Another died almost a month later from his injuries. A further 21 were injured.

It was the bloodiest of attacks and sent shockwaves around the nation.

The IRA – which had been waging a bloody war across mainland UK as part of the dispute over Northern Ireland – claimed responsibility. Despite a huge police hunt, no one was ever convicted.

And while the wreckage was cleared away and the damage fixed, the scars have taken longer to heal.

Last weekend, to mark the 25th anniversary of the atrocity, some 10,000 people turned out for a special performance from the Royal Marines Band Portsmouth and Royal Marines Band Collingwood.

The performance took place on a bandstand erected in memory of those who lost their lives.

Organiser Bill Butler said: "The annual concert really cements the relationship between the people of Deal and the band service.

"And it gives the band service something to come back for every year and the town the opportunity to look forward to welcoming them back.

"And that's down to those 11 young men who so gallantly gave their lives on that day."

The barracks would eventually be closed in 1996 and moved to Portsmouth. But the loss on that fateful day in 1989 ensures it retains a special place in Marines' hearts.

The chairman of the Deal Memorial Bandstand Trust, Major John Perkins, added: "This is an active working military memorial.

The bandstand hosts in excess of 20 concerts each summer, and when the Royal Marines band comes, thousands come along to watch.

"It is a reflection of the warmth that remains here in Deal for the Royal Marines."

The bandstand has 12 sides that contain the names of the victims. The re-dedication last weekend consisted of special prayers, the sounding of the last post and the observance of a two-minute silence.

In a poignant moment the Bandstand Chaplain read the names of the 11 victims.

They were band Corporals Andy Cleatheroe, Trevor Davis, David McMillan and Dean Pavey, along with musicians Mick Ball, Richard Fice, Richard Jones, Mark Petch, Tim Reeves, Bob Simmonds and Chris Nolan.

The organisers said: "This event is a performance of outstanding quality by some of the best musicians in the

Deal barracks bombing: Concert marks 25 years

More than 10,000 attend special performance by the Royal Marines at the bandstand remembering 11 musicians killed by IRA, reports **Chris Murphy**



world. However, it is much more than that.

"It is also an act of remembrance to 11 gifted musicians who lost their lives.

"The event is attended by families of the victims, former Royal Marines who were also involved in the incident, some of whom were injured, and members of the emergency services and hospital staff who responded to the incident on the day and in the days following the attack."

The dead from the blast are buried nearby in the Hamilton Road Cemetery in Deal.

At first, on the fateful day, even the leader of the orchestra had no idea what had happened.

Colour Sergeant Jay O'Neil, who attended last weekend's event, somehow survived the blast that took so many of his friends and comrades.

He said: "I had this feeling of being lifted in the air – I didn't know what it was at first. I thought it could have been a gas explosion.

"I knew it was something really serious only when I came to rest. I looked around and noticed there was nothing of the building left – it had been completely collapsed."

It was just the latest IRA attack on mainland Britain.

Other attacks in the era included the bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton during the Conservative Party conference in 1984 and the Regents Park and Hyde Park bombings in 1982.

HOW COULD THEY ATTACK UNARMED MEN?

It was a military barracks, but it was hardly a significant military target – the men inside played music for the pleasure of others. If they were needed on a battlefield, it was generally in the role of medic.

But the IRA didn't see it that way. Its bomb was hidden under a sofa in a rest area of the barracks and detonated at a time when the building should have been packed.

Luckily for many, they were still in bed, having been granted a lie-in as a reward for a late night's performance. Others were practising on the parade ground.

The 8.27am explosion rocked the neighbourhood. At first, no one suspected a bomb blast. But as the morning hours passed, news gradually emerged that this was far more sinister than thought.

The area was sealed off, but locals were close to band members and the word in surrounding streets was accurate. It had been a bomb, and the results were catastrophic.

The Royal Marines School of Music, founded in 1930, was based at Portsmouth but also used facilities around the UK, and Walmer Barracks, Deal, had been



utilised since 1950. School-leavers were recruited at just 16 for 32 months of training.

In 1982, there was a similar attack on a military band in London.

Many of the men, some still in their teenage years, were left shocked for weeks at what they witnessed as they became part of the IRA battle to get troops out of Northern Ireland – where they had been posted since 1969.

At the time, the then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, speaking from Moscow, said she

was "shocked and extremely sad".

Leader of the opposition Neil Kinnock said it was an "awful atrocity", adding: "Even the people who say they support what the IRA calls its cause must be sickened by the way in which such death and injury is mercilessly inflicted."

The Commandant General Royal Marines Lieutenant-General Sir Martin Garrod condemned the bombers as "thugs, extortionists, torturers, murderers and cowards – the scum of the earth".

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WAR ZONE: Organisers are hoping that this year's event will attract more than 100,000 visitors to Folkestone Racecourse for an event that is billed as the biggest of its kind anywhere in the world

Great War focal point as racecourse showcases years of military might

Jamie Weir pops along to witness the historical invasion that is the annual War and Peace Revival Show

WITH smoke rising and the staccato sound of small-arms fire, you'd be forgiven for thinking war had broken out at Folkestone Racecourse.

But in fact it is the military extravaganza of the War and Peace Revival Show, and this year organisers say it's set to welcome more people than ever before.

The show, which started on Wednesday and concludes today (Sunday), is likely to see more than 100,000 visitors and is billed as the biggest event of its kind in the world.

With 18,000 people camping at the site and hundreds of military vehicles on show, a small community has grown up around the site.

This year, there is a special focus on the First World War to commemorate its centenary.

A full-size replica trench system has been built so visitors can get an idea of what life might have been like for a soldier in the Great War.

Stephen Abs Wisdom, the chief designer of the trench system, said: "Our trench features authentic construction, an officer's dug-out and even an unfortunate victim of a previous bombardment, slowly decaying into the thousands of muddy pools that formed in shell craters across the Western Front."

As well as the trench system, visitors will be given a cooking lesson with a difference – the chef using nothing but Second World War ra-

tions to create dishes at the Home Front display.

And the show will also covering more contemporary military activities featuring displays related to the conflict in Afghanistan as well as a re-creation of the famous 'Black Hawk Down' scenario, when American forces saw one of their helicopters shot down over Somalia in 1993.

The organisers say the show's new home – it moved from Paddock Wood's Hop Farm for 2013 – at the Folkestone Racecourse will help to ensure this year's show is the biggest and best yet.

Georgina Martin, a spokeswoman for the show, told KoS: "This will be our second year at the racecourse. It's the perfect venue, as it is around 200 acres, so there's a lot of space for displays. It also has amazing infrastructure already in place.

"It's perfect for people who are coming from Europe, as Folkestone is so conveniently located. We have also managed to get HS1 to stop at Westenhanger station, right next to the racecourse, on Friday and Saturday, so visitors can get here more easily."

Organisers are also building on the success of an initiative started last year – giving local children a free military-history lesson. They have invited 2,500 school pupils to the show to experience some of the past 100 years of military history.

For those less interested in the military aspect of the show, it also boasts a magnificent array of classic cars from 1930 to 1960.



Couple tie the knot after years of visiting the show

A COUPLE from Coldred, near Dover, love the show so much, this year they decided to get married at it.

Andy Kennett and Julie Parker said they wanted to tie the knot at the show because of Mr Kennett's enthusiasm for military vehicles and the fact that he's been a regular at the event for the past 15 years.

The new Mrs Kennett said: "We both camp at the show for at least one week every year with a large group of friends.

"We always joked someone from our group should get married there.

"We never thought it would be us, we never thought we would get married."

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A LEADING political commentator said he was left "spitting blood" over what he calls the "inexplicable" decision this week to boot Kent MP Damian Green out of his ministerial position.

The Ashford politician was one of a host of casualties in the dramatic reshuffle announced by Prime Minister David Cameron this week.

The move to replace a host of well-established figures was seen as the first stage of the build-up to next May's General Election.

But while there were better fortunes for some of the county's Tory MPs – Sevenoaks' Michael Fallon is now minister for defence, and Tunbridge Wells' popular Greg Clark picks up another portfolio – Mr Green's demotion surprised many.

Mr Green, who was on the front bench from 1998 to 2004, and again from 2005 until this week, was sacked from his role as minister for police and criminal justice in the cull.

Iain Dale, who lives in Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells, is a regular political commentator and broadcaster on radio station LBC, and well known Conservative Party blogger and former Westminster candidate.

He said he was left flabbergasted at the decision.

"He is a highly competent minister; an original thinker and a great media performer who has never put a foot wrong," he said of the former immigration minister.

"He should have been promoted to the Cabinet. If competence counted for anything he would have been.

"He is a universally popular minister who was flung overboard for no apparent reason. Sometimes there is no justice in politics. I'm spitting blood. There were several sacking that were inexplicable – Damian Green's was one."

Mr Dale, who presents the drive-time show on London radio station LBC, dubbed the reshuffle the "night of the wrong knives".

"David Cameron has got rid of some dead wood but he's also sacked some good people who should have remained," he told KoS.

"You can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs, but he has created more enemies in all parts of the party, somewhat needlessly.

"The sackings were ruthless in their execution, and were reminiscent of Harold Macmillan's cull of ministers 50 years ago. Not that it benefited Macmillan in the long run. Cameron is known to be an admirer of Macmillan's, but perhaps this was taking things too far.

"He hates reshuffles so I was surprised this one was so extensive. He wants to freshen up his team for the election and to put more media friendly faces to the fore."

Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, echoed Mr Dale's sentiments, describing Mr Green's dismissal as "a shame".

"We have lost a voice of reason there," he added.

"I didn't agree with everything Damian Green did, but he seemed a very reasonable person. He was prepared to listen and reflect on what you said to him and actively engage in conversation.

"Particularly when there were very negative stories about the police, he would always remind people that the



CORRIDORS OF POWER:
Ashford MP Damian Green was a high-profile victim of PM David Cameron's reshuffle

'Night of the wrong knives' sees Green shoved out of top job

Sarah Linney looks at how the county's MPs fared in David Cameron's pre-General Election ministerial shake-up...

majority of officers are honest and hard working. He would always preface what he said with a message of support.

"He would say, if you ever have doubts about the police, do what I do and go and work a shift with them."

Mr Green told KoS: "I am disappointed, but they have been two big jobs to do, immigration and policing, and I am pleased to have had the chance to do them.

"Life goes on and I will continue to argue for the things I have argued for, and to be MP for Ashford which is a big job in itself.

"We knew a reshuffle was coming

but you don't get any advance warning – you are just told. But in politics this sort of thing happens. Nothing is ever a total shock."

Faversham MP Hugh Robertson also resigned as Middle East minister to spend more time with his family, while Canterbury MP Julian Brazier was promoted to the role of parliamentary under-secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Brazier said he was delighted with his new role.

"It is a privilege to join the Government in the department I have always

most wished to serve in," he said.

"Working with our armed forces will be an honour and it is exciting to be assisting the Secretary of State with the transformation of our Reserve Forces, having served with them for 13 years myself."

Tunbridge Wells' Greg Clark said he was "thrilled" to be appointed minister for universities and science.

He has previously held the position of decentralisation minister and retains the cities and constitution portfolio.

Maidstone MP Helen Grant survived the cull and continues as sports minister.

Sevenoaks' Michael Fallon, now

firmly established as one of the Tories' big-hitters, will spend the weekend being briefed on his new role as defence minister.

He said: "I'm delighted to be given the responsibility of looking after our armed forces and continuing to protect Britain from threats both at home and abroad."

Mr Fallon, former vice-chairman of the Tories, has previously been minister for energy and business and is clearly seen as a safe pair of hands by the prime minister.

Mr Dale said Mr Fallon's promotion was "totally deserved".

"Michael Fallon has been a brilliant trouble shooter for David Cameron," he said.

"His promotion is long overdue. I have known him for 30 years and it is a travesty it has taken this long for him to get into the Cabinet."

Perhaps the biggest shock was the removal of Michael Gove as education secretary, shifting him instead to the PM's enforcer as chief whip.

John Walder, the divisional secretary of the Kent branch of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Across the education world there will be a huge sigh of relief that this man has disappeared.

"With Gove there was no engagement with the teaching profession. He had his views and made assertions but he never backed them up.

"With the free schools and academies policy, no evidence has ever been produced to suggest that it makes things better for the kids. Some have done well and some haven't.

"If I were Mr Gove's successor I would fix a meeting with the teaching unions to discuss the issues that are plaguing us. I would like her to talk to us in such a way that we know we can reason and negotiate with her."

He warned that he had heard that Nicky Morgan, Mr Gove's replacement, was "Gove in drag", but Mr Dale said that this was not the case.

"I tip Nicky Morgan as a future leader of the Tory party. She could be Britain's second female prime minister," he said.

"She's certainly not Michael Gove in drag. She's her own woman and I believe she will be the big success of this reshuffle."

Faversham's Hugh Robertson published a fulsome resignation letter to David Cameron on his website.

"After an exciting and busy period as a minister it now feels like the right time to take stock with my family," the letter said.

"It has been a genuine privilege to serve in your government. For me, the highlight has obviously been my time as minister for sport and the Olympics during London 2012, an event I saw through for nine years from bid to delivery.

"It goes without saying that you personally, the Government and our party will continue to command my total, unwavering support."

Mr Dale described Mr Robertson as "very competent".

"He was a huge success as sports minister and is hugely popular with his colleagues," he said.

"He should still be part of Cameron's team and would have made a great chief whip."

■ What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

NO DEALS BETWEEN UKIP AND THE TORIES...

RENEWED suggestions that David Cameron might want to do a deal with Ukip ahead of the next election have been described as "not worth a teacup of warm spit".

Party leader and Kent MEP Nigel Farage said that the Conservatives' support had declined badly among working class voters, and that in David Cameron's shoes he might think about standing aside in seats where the Tories are unpopular in exchange for Ukip leaving some middle-class seats alone.

However, he told KoS it was "extremely unlikely" that such a thing would happen.

"I don't think he would come to us with a deal and I wouldn't have thought Ukip members would trust him," said Mr Farage, who lives in Westerham.

"There are a lot of people who want to vote Ukip."

Roger Latchford, Ukip's leader on Kent County Council – where the party is the main opposition – agreed.

"We will leave it to the public to decide how many seats Ukip have in Parliament – not David Cameron or anyone else," he said.

"We are out to win as many seats as we can – and



David Cameron is not in any position to set conditions on the election."

Political commentator Iain Dale, said the offer was "not worth a teacup of warm spit".

"Quite why Mr Farage even bothered to make the offer is beyond me," he said. "He hates Cameron and would never do a deal with him, and, believe me, the feeling is mutual."



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A 45-year-old who lost £750,000 after becoming addicted to online gambling has recalled his hellish descent into crisis which saw him also lose his job and his family.

At his peak he was losing £10,000 a day and admitted to even having suicidal thoughts.

Yet, remarkably, Justyn Larcombe managed to turn his life around, beat his addiction and win back his wife and children.

And now the former Army major, who works in finance in London, has written a book about the traumatic period in a bid to prevent others follow in his footsteps.

Mr Larcombe, who lives in Shipbourne, near Tonbridge, describes in his book 'Tails I Lose' how he first fell foul of the lure of online betting when he was watching a rugby match, during which there was an advert for a free £5 wager.

The addiction spiralled from there, until he was betting compulsively everyday.

Mr Larcombe explained to KoS this week: "Addiction is just all-consuming.

"From the moment I woke up in the morning, to the moment I fell asleep at night, it was on my mind, and sometimes I'd even wake up in the middle of the night thinking about gambling."

During those dark years, the stakes could not have been higher. At the peak of his addiction he was gambling upwards of £10,000 a day, at one point losing £17,000 on a single tennis match.

In total he gambled away £750,000, but the money was only part of what he lost.

His wife left him, taking their children, and he was fired from his job.

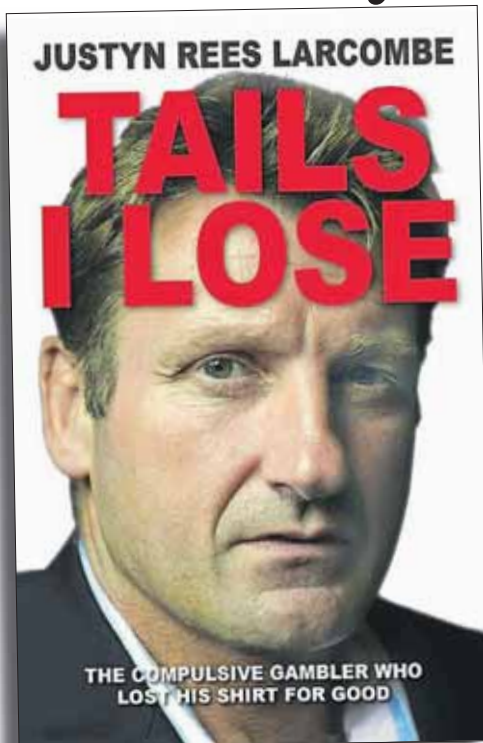
With his reputation in tatters, financially ruined and alone, it seemed as though there was no possible redemption, but in his determination to free his life from the blight of gambling, he managed to curb his addiction and slowly win back the trust of his family.

First though, he had to reach rock bottom.

"I was suicidal at one point," he explains. "The only thing that stopped me doing it was the thought of my children."

He admits he was not an easy man to be around during the peak of his addiction.

On the gambling £750k, my family and job



Maria Chiorando talks to a former Army major whose betting addiction almost cost him his life... before he fought back

Having spent all of his money, the author then spent all his wife's savings, which she had entrusted to him to invest.

Once that was lost, he started gambling using funds from his company credit card. He earned a six-figure salary at a City insurance firm.

"I knew that as soon as work found out that I had used the money in that way, I would lose my job, and they would find out. I needed a way out."

Rather than confide in his family at this point, he decided that he would try to win back the money in order to replenish the missing funds.

It couldn't stay a secret forever though, and one day his wife, Emma, discovered the depth of his deception when she saw a bank statement.

She left soon after, taking the children with her.

With no money to pay the rent on his home, Mr Larcombe had two options; to be homeless or to move back home with his mother, who he hadn't lived with for more than 20 years.

"My mother and brother turned up as I was about to be evicted. I had been selling items from the house to get money for gambling, and living off a bag of mouldy potatoes.

"I had one black bin liner of my belongings, some clothes and a few photos. It was humiliating.

"In fact, it was total humiliation, but I needed that embarrassment, because it had been my pride that had been holding me back from getting help."

He moved back home with his mother, then just stopped gambling.

"I got on my knees and prayed," he said. "I had faith when I was younger, and I rediscovered it."

This faith helped the recovery process.

It is unusual to just stop betting in-

stantaneously, but that's what he did, putting practical measures in place to ensure that he wouldn't suffer a relapse.

There is a block on his computer, and someone keeps an eye on his finances, ensuring that money is going where it should.

"The thing with the practical measures," he explained, "is that they won't work unless you really want to give up gambling.

"You could work your way around them. But I really wanted to stop, so they were an additional help."

Now reunited with his wife and family, he considers himself lucky.

"It's not great, my wife still doesn't trust me, but we are working on things. I consider it a happy story.

"I lost someone recently who killed themselves because of addiction, leaving behind a young son, so I see cases that are worse than mine."

When he stopped gambling, he says he got his self esteem back

He attends Gamblers Anonymous meetings, and is now the secretary for the Kent branch.

He also took up swimming again, which he enjoyed when he was younger, and is now swimming the Channel next month.

"Swimming the Channel is an extreme move," he admits, "but I am very all or nothing. I am a full on person, and I think this is what led me to gambling addiction.

"I would never have expected to become addicted to gambling – I didn't even place my first bet until I was 40, so it surprised me.

"Hopefully the book will help someone else."

"I had massive mood swings – I suppose it was like being bipolar, I would have massive highs and lows, depending on whether I was winning or losing.

"I totally withdrew from my family

– my wife and my children.

"Before I started gambling, I had been a very sociable person, I loved dinner parties and spending time with friends, but I lost interest in doing any of those things."

“Addiction is just all-consuming. From the moment I woke up, to the moment I fell asleep at night, it was on my mind...”

He insists an addiction to gambling is often misunderstood and is similar to a dependence on drugs.

"The highs were amazing," explains Mr Larcombe, "But the lows were horrible, and they lasted much longer."

Compounding this was the immense pressure that he had to live with on a daily basis.





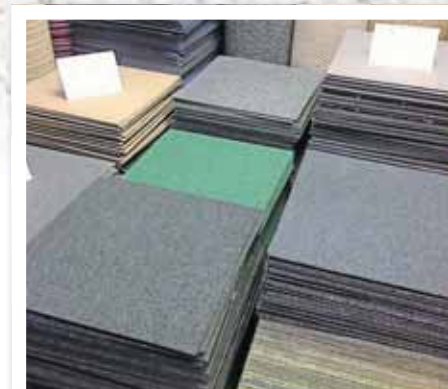
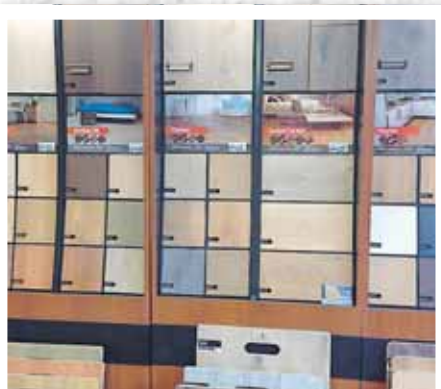
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THOUSANDS of people flocked to the grounds of historic Rochester Castle this week to enjoy an event that has become one of the county's musical highlights.

The Castle Concert series – described as being an event for the locals – has grown into a major showcase of top talent and from Wednesday until Saturday saw sell-out crowds enjoy the good weather and another star-studded line-up.

"It, along with other festivals we provide, helps put Medway on the map," explains a spokesman for Medway Council, which organises the event. "It's the jewel in the crown of our entertainment offering."

"People from across the country, and indeed the world, attend our festivals and this year alone we had people from Italy and France attending. In the past, the concerts have seen visitors from South America."

This week's performances saw Level 42, UB40 and Westlife's Shane Filan entertain the crowds. Each show pulled in some 4,000 fans.

After hosting classical concerts in the grounds for some 10 years, in 1993 it was decided to expand and the Castle Concerts series was born.

Originally serving up tribute acts, it then decided to broaden its appeal.

The benefits are more than just a good time for those attending.

Chris Irvine, a Conservative Medway councillor and member of the business support overview and scrutiny committee, explains: "We see a real boost to the local economy, with restaurants, bars and all the other businesses watching trade pick up."

"And it isn't just local people who come to the event. We get people travelling here from around the country and using local hotels and bed and breakfasts as well. The concert itself doesn't make a huge profit for the council, but the other benefits it brings make it all worthwhile."

"It gets the area known around the country. We get people coming to Medway who don't even have tickets but still want to be here for the buzz which surrounds the event."

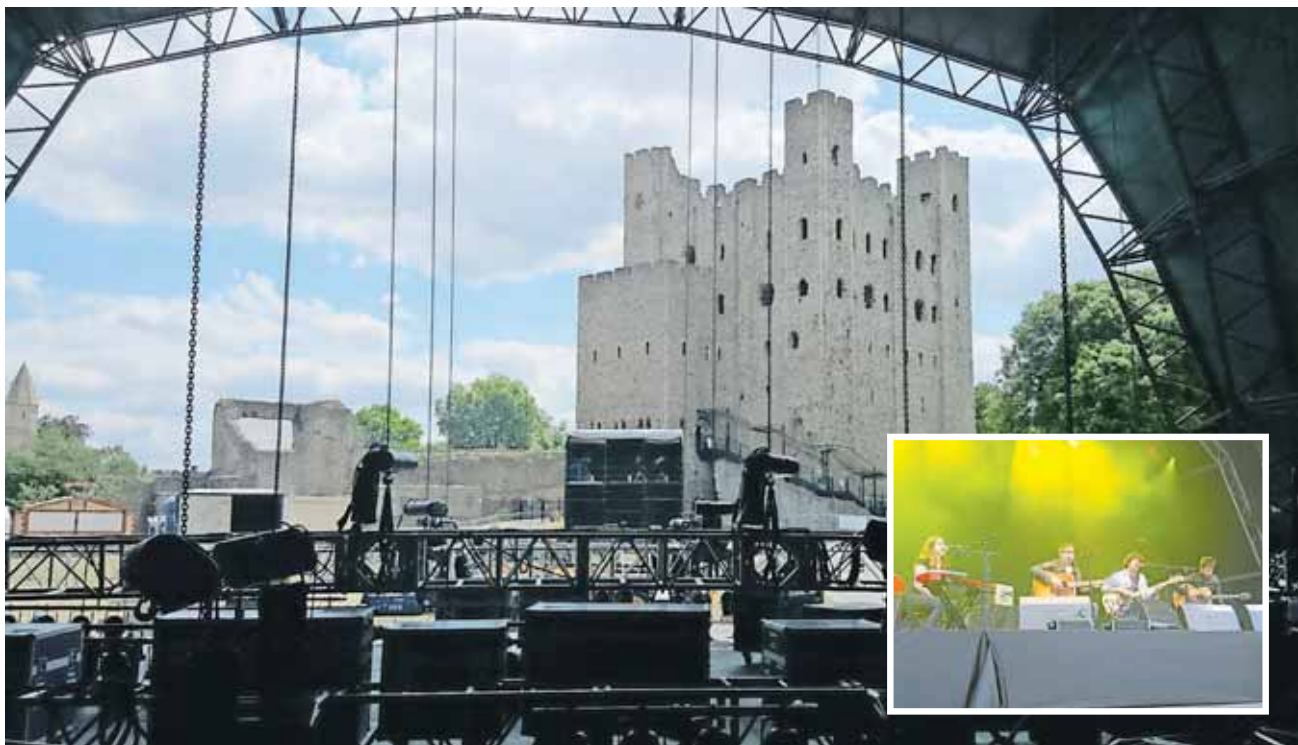
But putting on a concert of this scale is no small task. Event organiser ENTertainment is tasked with bringing the events together. It will book the headline acts, organise the venue and even build the stage.

Production co-ordinator Amy Harmsworth explains: "It's always such a buzz setting up these concerts."

"The castle backdrop makes for a magical place to hold the concert,

Quality line-up ensures big crowds revel in Rochester concerts, writes **Jamie Weir**

Thousands rock the castle to strains of UB40 and Co



STUNNING SETTING: Rochester's Castle Concerts have proved to be a hit with music fans and have attracted bands including the Lightning Seeds (inset)

and people in Medway really love it. We have been organising the event for 15 years now and we really enjoy this one. We do all of the production procurement, which means we sort out the lighting, stages and everything else in the build-up.

"We also book the acts for the council. Artists are starting to know about the concerts' reputation and know what a great event this is."

Previous headliners include everyone from local star Jools Holland –

who lives in nearby Cooling Castle – to Status Quo, McFly, Michael Bolton, Van Morrison and Ray Davies.

It takes 15 stage-builders, four production staff, a team of caterers and a myriad of other people to get the event ready for the ticket-holders to arrive.

And Miss Harmsworth thinks one of the reasons the events are so popular is because of the quality on offer.

She said: "Medway Council wants

the concert to be really high-class, with the best artists and the best of everything for the people who come. It's great to be a part of that and help make a spectacular event."

Cllr Irvine also sees it as a magical four nights – but, he says, there is a good reason Medway has been so successful with its Castle Concerts.

He said: "We have an amazing events and business team at the council. They're the real stars of the show and they've made this event

what it has become. I think that at the end of the concert it is them who should be getting a standing ovation."

"Other authorities could learn from these events. They're amazing for the area and benefit Medway in so many ways. Local people love them, local businesses love them and there are many economic benefits for Rochester because of them."

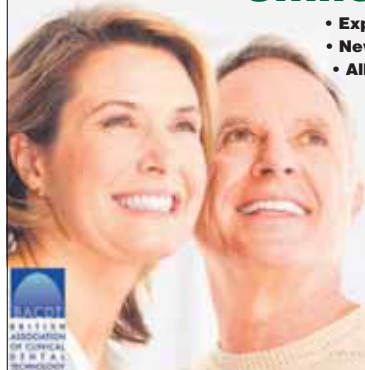
The events ended on Saturday with the traditional performance by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.

PREVIOUS CONCERT STARS...

- **2009:** Jools Holland, McFly, Adrian Edmonson.
- **2010:** Status Quo, Will Young, The Saturdays with The Wanted.
- **2011:** Squeeze, the Lightning Seeds, Peter Andre, N-Dubz.
- **2012:** Jools Holland, Steps, Bjorn Again, Billy Ocean and Alexander O'Neal.
- **2013:** Status Quo, The Wanted, Tony Hadley, Go West and ABC.

■ **Other acts** to have performed at the concerts since 2004 include: Blondie, The Stranglers, Sister Sledge, Smokey Robinson, Beverley Knight, Michael Bolton, Van Morrison, Ray Davies, Acker Bilk, The Sugababes, The Australian Pink Floyd, The Rat Pack (West End show), Dancing in the Streets (West End show), Mylene Klass, the Opera Babes and Natasha Marsh.

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It pays to deceive... as long as you're sure who's boss

Nick Hytner, director of *One Guy, Two Guvnors*, talks about this acclaimed show

THE National Theatre's comedy *One Man, Two Guvnors* will be making its way to Dartford's Orchard Theatre next month.

It has an impressive cast, has been seen by more than a million people across the world and has been hailed as "the funniest show on the planet".

As if that were not enough, audiences at the Kent venue will be delighted to see the county's own Shaun Williamson playing the role of Charlie Clench.

In addition to Williamson, the cast for *The Orchard* includes Gavin Spokes as Francis Henshall, a role he has also played in the West End production of the show; Jasmyrn Banks (*Wind In The*

Willows for the RSC and the role of Alice Branning in *EastEnders*) as Pauline Clench; and Emma Barton, playing Dolly, though best known from her three-year stint as Honey in *EastEnders*.

One Man, Two Guvnors sees Francis Henshall fired from his skiffle band and becoming minder to Roscoe Crabbe.

But Roscoe is really Rachel,

posing as her own dead brother, who has been killed by her boyfriend Stanley Stubbers.

Francis spots the chance of an extra meal ticket and takes a job with one Stanley Stubbers – but, to prevent discovery, he must keep his two guvnors apart. Got it?

Directed by Nick Hytner and

Continued on page 41 »

» Features team

Editor: Dave Mairs

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« Continued from page 39

written by Richard Bean, *One Man, Two Guvnors* is based on *The Servant Of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni, with songs by Grant Olding.

The Dartford date is part of a UK and Ireland tour of a production that first opened at the National Theatre in 2011.

Here, Hytner, director of the National Theatre, tells of the history behind the staging of *One Man, Two Guvnors*.

"In 2011, we had a very grim repertoire – it was serious with no laughs," he said. "This seemed like a bad idea, particularly during the summer months."

“In 2011, we had a very grim repertoire – serious with no laughs, a bad idea, particularly during the summer”

"It's always been the National Theatre's aspiration, and certainly mine, to have a repertoire that covers the whole spectrum of what the theatre can offer and something purely entertaining seemed like a necessity."

"None of my colleagues were up for looking for something purely entertaining and comic and I rather enjoy doing that kind of thing, so I volunteered myself for that slot."

"I remembered an old play called *The Servant Of Two Masters* by the Italian commedia dell' arte playwright Carlo Goldoni."

"The reason I knew the play so well was that I played Truffaldino [the character who eventually turned



LAUGHING MATTER: Former *EastEnders*' stars Shaun Williamson and Emma Barton are among the cast of what is called 'the funniest show on the planet'

into Francis Henshall] at school.

"I was very bad."

"I can remember being required to do somersault because the director of the school production wanted it done

in classic commedia style.

"He was determined that the harlequin should be acrobatic and I was a very fat, clumsy child and teenager and absolutely couldn't

cartwheel or somersault."

"I nevertheless had to, and these elaborate arthritic somersaults were part of a performance that had its moments but was essentially not

very good and not very funny."

"So I read the play again and thought it had funny bones but was

Continued on page 42 »

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« Continued from page 41

not in any of the faithful translations funny enough.

"I also thought that the way to bring it alive was to get James Corden to play the central role.

"James had been in The History Boys at the National and in Gavin And Stacey but had fallen out of favour and was lost in TV quiz-show land.

"James agreed to be in it and I asked the playwright Richard Bean to make a version because I knew that one thing that would not interest me was a production in the old 18th-century Italian commedia dell'arte style.

"I had this hunch that the traditions of low Italian comedy were essentially the same traditions of low English comedy.

"I think that probably pratfalls and low physical comedy about the traditional comic subjects of greed, money and sex are global. They spring spontaneously from what the human race finds funny.

"There is no tradition, particularly no low tradition, that doesn't find lust, drunkenness and greed funny.

"So I asked Richard Bean to transfer it from 18th-century Venice to post-war Brighton. I reckoned Brighton and Venice, as far as this play was concerned, were interchangeable.

"A lot of the Italian comedies take place in Venice, which was a very louche city – a city you went to for a dirty weekend. It has been a party city longer than any other European city.

"It ceased to be an influential and significant centre for European trade



in the 16th and 17th centuries and became a tourist or carnival city.

"In The Servant Of Two Masters, the protagonists escape from Turin,

“I had this hunch traditions of low Italian comedy were essentially the same traditions of low English comedy”

the big city, and hole up in Venice, where inevitably funny and complicated things happen to them.

"Brighton's relationship to London is much the same. It's a place with lots of hotels, far enough away from London that you might easily disappear into it if you are on the run from the law.

"It's a place with seedy picture-comic postcards.

"Brighton felt right, as did various English comic traditions like variety, end-of-the-pier farce, Ealing comedy and Carry On films. They all felt like they were coming from the same place.

"So I floated all these ideas to Richard. I'm not quite sure if we were

talking 1940s Brighton, 50s Brighton or 60s Brighton. He eventually alighted upon the early 60s Brighton – around the time that sex was invented, according to the Philip Larkin poem.

"He suggested 1963 – between the Lady Chatterley trial and the first Beatles LP.

"And right from the first draft it felt like it would work brilliantly. We had various readings. The first reading was quite sketchy, but lots of ideas from the very first reading ended up in the play.

"They came from a group of very

funny actors sitting around a table reading and discussing the text and working out what to do with an ancient waiter, Alfie, who behaves like a rubber ball.

"Alfie was there in Richard's first draft and everything else that happens in the play's climactic first act where Frances has to serve dinner to both his masters emerged in that first workshop reading.

"The other thing that emerged was that we needed someone to take care of the physical comedy and that was never going to be me. It's not my area of expertise – I can't even turn a somersault.

"So I asked Cal McCrystal, who is a great master of physical comedy, to come on board and help come up with the great physical routines in the play.

"I was also able to give the designer Mark Thompson a very clear brief – the style of the show was going to be out of variety, out of end-of-the-pier comedy.

"Even though the production was originally created around James Corden, there have now been several brilliant casts who have made the play their own – and I can't wait to see Gavin Spokes and the new touring company."

■ One Man, Two Guvnors will be at The Orchard Theatre from Monday to Saturday, August 4-9, at 7.30pm (Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 2.30pm).

There is a signed performance on the Wednesday and a post-show talk on the Thursday.

Tickets are priced from £12-£34. Phone 01322 220000 or visit orchardtheatre.co.uk to book.

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Decades-old musical still holds poignant message for the youngsters of our time

Chris Britcher finds a moral tale in The Marlowe Theatre's stage production of classic West Side Story

TRYING to review a classic like West Side Story is akin to revisiting a classic album. You know what to expect is universally declared one of the best of its kind, and ultimately it is hard to ever be critical at something that packs such knock-out punches when it comes to stand-out tracks.

And so, as Leonard Bernstein's modern take on Romeo and Juliet parked up for a string of shows at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre this week, expectation levels were high for a production that sits at the very top table of the world's most enduring musicals.

After all, when key songs include the likes of America, Somewhere and I Feel Pretty, you've got to go some to underwhelm.

What's more, West Side Story may be closing in on its 60th birthday yet its fundamental message of the futility of gangs and the naivety of youth remains perhaps as relevant today as it ever has.

As a consequence, its emotional clout is not denied.

It is hard not to be able to draw parallels with modern-day street



IT'S A LEAP OF FAITH: West Side Story has been captivating audiences at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury

problems with only the smallest leap of the imagination... just without quite so much dancing, prancing and roly-poly policemen.

This production does the show's legacy considerable justice.

The Jets and The Sharks do battle on stage in a tightly choreographed

romp through its oh-so-famous songs in a manner that is engrossing and, at times, quite dazzling.

The set itself is vast and versatile, a

web of metal that switches from portraying the familiar fire-escape staircases of the back streets of 1950s New York to sweeping clear for a masterclass in lighting and staging as the ensemble take to the stage for razor-sharp set-pieces.

But it is the casting that is perhaps the real masterstroke.

Djalenga Scott is magnificent as Anita – utterly compelling and thoroughly convincing as her storyline takes her on a roller-coaster ride that, ultimately, is really rather shocking.

Katie Hall as Maria is a huge success, too, while her relationship with Tony (Louis Maskell) is as dramatic and traumatic a love story as Shakespeare could ever conjure.

Javier Cid (Bernardo) and Jack Wilcox (Riff) are polished, too, and the drama of the big rumble and its repercussions remains edge-of-the-seat stuff.

In short, it's another success for The Marlowe and a reminder of the compelling talents of songwriter Bernstein and lyricist Stephen Sondheim.

West Side Story's reputation is only enhanced by this touring rendition.

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For tickets and event details visit www.canterburytales.org.uk

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Whitstable Oyster Festival

July 26
– Aug 1



KEAMS YARD STUDIO GALLERY

Artist's seafront gallery inspires a closer look

KEAM'S Yard is a unique studio gallery situated right on the seafront in the heart of Whitstable.

This is the beachside studio of artist Bruce Williams, with space for creating his distinctive murals as well as a permanent display of his latest landscape and seascape oil paintings.

His characteristic paintings capture the ambience and beauty of north Kent with its large skies, green slopes and atmospheric coastal views.

Also regularly on show at Keam's Yard are Bruce's still-life paintings, together with work from his European travels, which are currently on show at the Royal Academy Summer Show.

There is a range of limited-edition prints on display and smaller artworks, as well as

products and work from other Whitstable artists and craftspeople.

Keam's Yard gallery offers white-wall space for hire and exhibitions are different every week.

There is also a selection of 20th-century antiques and retro kitsch, so a visit is always interesting.

Come and be inspired – stroll along the seafront and stop off at Keam's Yard in Whitstable.

It is open daily from 11am to 5pm, with convenient adjacent parking.

Keam's Yard Studio Gallery
The Horsebridge
Whitstable CT5 1BU
(telephone 07970 633112,
email bruce@bwmurals.com,
web www.KeamsYard.com)

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Herberts Cycles

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Bridge House Arts provides art classes and pottery workshops in groups or on a one-to-one basis.

Art holidays are available as well as art parties for the corporate business market.

You are welcome to come and see our creative world. There is gallery space to visit or hire as well as quality art and craft materials for sale.

For further information, please phone Lynda Fairbairn on 01227 772360 or 07771 763661.

Bridge House Arts Whitstable

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Whitstable Oyster Festival

July 26
– Aug 1

IT'S called the Whitstable Oyster Festival, but there is so much more going on – how about more than 30 cask ales that will need sampling?

The globally-famous event, founded in 1985, attracts tens of thousands from every corner and starts on Saturday, July 26, and runs until Friday, August 1.

There's a food fair, street parade, treasure hunt for children, Venetian carnival, fireworks and, of course, those Whitstable oysters by the ton.

The organisers say that on top of those highlights are an additional 70 events, all designed to celebrate the town's heritage, food, music and art. Comedian Sean Locke will be doing a turn.

The busker's stage is open to literally anyone with some musical talent and those who feel happy about playing to an instant audience of thousands.

Step back in time at the charity tea garden at the Captain's House, raising money for Syrian refugees, and enjoy the typically quaint British pastime of tea and home-made cake, all served on vintage crockery.

Other attractions include street theatre, a diver's trail and a farmer's market.

But, of course, most will be there for the oysters, caught locally on the nearby flats. And it's on the seashore where the formal opening of the festival is held.

This is a simple and charming ceremony, blessing a catch of oysters landed from the sea by Whitstable Sea Scouts.

The catch is then presented to The Lord Mayor of Canterbury, who will distribute the oysters to hostels throughout the town at the head of the Oyster Parade.

Think you like oysters? How about handing over £3 to prove it by knocking back six of them and quaffing half a pint in the fastest time for a fun prize?

Whitstable has been synonymous with oysters for 2,000 years after oys-

So much more to hugely popular seaside festival than just its oysters



ter shells excavated in modern Rome were traced back to this traditional seaside town.

Most events are free, although some have a small charge to cover costs. And the Festival Feast starts at £35 per head for three courses. An essential park-and-ride system is in

place, so look out for signs if driving.

Although the festival was launched in the mid-80s, favourite events like the Blessing of the Waters, the Landing of the Oysters and grotter-building date back much further.

The week traditionally celebrates the oystermen's holiday as the British

native oyster spawns from May to August, during which time they are left alone by fishermen, hence the traditional closed season for oyster-eating in any month with an 'r' in it.

Pacific rock oysters, however, are farmed year-round and it is these that are available during the festival.



» For more food and drink articles pick up a copy of this month's

KENT LIFE



BROTHERS IN ARMS: Head chef Michael Fowler, left, has been joined by his brother, sous chef David, at The Marquis. Below: Charlie Lakin.

Marquis welcomes a new man to lead way forward

Award-winning Alkham Valley restaurant has appointed **Michael Fowler** to build on the excellent reputation it has achieved over the past few years

ONE of Kent's most celebrated restaurants has a new head chef. Michael Fowler, 37, has been appointed head chef of The Marquis, a five-star fine-dining 'restaurant with rooms' in the Alkham Valley.

He joins The Marquis from Prince's Golf Club and Brasserie on the Bay at Sandwich, where he worked as head chef and gained two coveted AA Rosettes.

He has a hard act to follow, replacing Charlie Lakin, who had been Marquis head chef since 2008 and won three AA rosettes for the restaurant. During his first two years there he was named as a rising Michelin star.

Fowler's career, meanwhile, has included periods at renowned restaurants in France and Canada as well as across the UK – including the Michelin Star Walnut Tree in Abergavenny, Wales.

Charl Oberholster, manager at The Marquis, said: "Michael's appointment demonstrates our continuing commitment to putting exceptional food at the heart of



“He shares our passion for food and has the flair to build on The Marquis's excellent reputation”

what we offer and we're delighted to welcome him.

"He shares our passion for food and has the flair, imagination and dedication to build on The

Marquis's excellent reputation for fine dining and take it to the next level."

Fowler, who lives in Sandwich, has already introduced a selection of new bar snacks, available every day from 2pm to 6pm to complement the restaurant's tasting, à la carte and afternoon tea menus.

He said: "The Marquis really suits my style of modern English cuisine and the way I like to cook, and I'm looking forward to introducing my own take on some very classic dishes.

"I'm also keen to make more of The Marquis's garden, which is a lovely space with wonderful views.

"I'm creating some sharing dishes that will be perfect for everyone who likes alfresco dining in a beautiful setting, but I'd like to think all of our menus can be enjoyed in the garden as well as in the restaurant."

Fowler has been joined at The Marquis by a familiar face – his brother David, 34, from Deal, who has been appointed sous chef.

The brothers previously worked

together at Prince's Golf Club, where David spent two years training under Michael.

The Marquis has already earned a number of accolades, including Restaurant of the Year in the 2012 Taste of Kent Awards and a Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence in 2013 and 2014.

It is one of just six restaurants in the county to hold three AA rosettes and is also featured in The Good Hotel Guide.

Last year it introduced a 10 Mile Menu, which is regularly refreshed to feature seasonal ingredients sourced from within just 10 miles of the restaurant.

The Marquis offers a comprehensive list of wines carefully selected from around the world, including a sparkling wine produced exclusively for the restaurant from grapes grown in its own vineyard less than a mile away.

For more information on The Marquis, visit www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk, phone 01304 873410 or email info@themarquisatalkham.co.uk.

Frankie says relax and enjoy some really good pizzas

Frankie's Farmshop

Location: Staplehurst

By **Tim Miles**

THE late-afternoon sun was bright and warming, while the gentle breeze brought with it the sounds of children's laughter from the nearby field. The light had the sort of quality you normally associate with Continental holidays and cast long shadows over the flagstone floor. Meanwhile, the smell and sounds of the kitchen heightened the sense of anticipation.

This was not the south of France, or Spain, but Staplehurst. Frankie's Farmshop, part of Staplehurst Nurseries, has been open since June, 2012, and the 'word of mouth' is very complimentary.

Its exterior is nothing to shout about, but the interior is light, bright, airy and somehow manages to blend very English oak beams

with the feel you get from restaurants in much sunnier climes.

Its high ceiling, wooden furniture and space give it a wonderful atmosphere. Add in the open kitchen bringing the theatre of cookery centre stage and you're on to a winner.

Part farm shop and part café, on Fridays and Saturdays after 5pm, Frankie's serves "fresh, artisan, authentic, hand-stretched pizzas". And that's when my clan visited, and we were not disappointed.

Ticking boxes for parents and kids is never easy, but Frankie's has a couple of tricks up its sleeve: firstly, there are the goats and chickens outside the front, which are always a hit with the little ones. Secondly, there is a big wicker basket filled with outdoor toys right by the front door

(dads take note, I'm sure I spotted a Nerf gun among the delights) to encourage them to play outside.

Thirdly, there is the meadow for the kids to actually play in, that keeps them safe and takes them away from the seated area. And finally, there is the zip-wire in the meadow – guaranteed fun for children of all ages!

Now to the pizzas. They were light, crispy and well seasoned, with generous amounts of toppings.

Between us, we tried the pepperoni, Parma ham and Margherita varieties and they were all delicious. They were generously sized, with the open kitchen adding

to the whole 'being on holiday' feel to the evening.

Special mention, too, for the side dishes of green salad and coleslaw, with the latter receiving praise from my usually very fussy tasting panel.

Any establishment is only as good as its staff, and the young waitresses were friendly, efficient and able to smile when the almost-compulsory child's drink got spilt.

Children being children, they wanted a pudding and were not to be denied. Despite a selection of attractive-looking cakes, my little darlings were not tempted. At this point, our still-smiling waitress asked what they would like.

Pavlova was the response.

Five minutes later, they were happily tucking into a meringue, raspberry coulee and fresh raspberry ensemble (unfortunately, there was no whipped cream). How's that for service?

Our meal of four pizzas, drinks, coffee and children's puddings came to £70. If you are looking for somewhere that's family-orientated and has great atmosphere, good food and first-class staff, try Frankie's Farmshop.

■ **Frankie's Farmshop**
Staplehurst Nurseries, Clapper Lane, Staplehurst TN12 0JT (phone 01580 890713)



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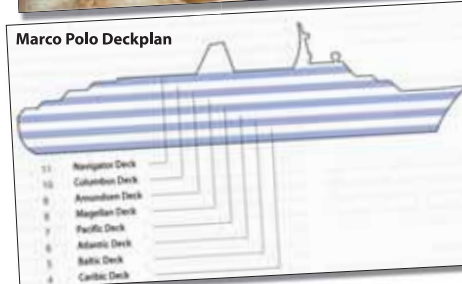
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Marco Polo Deckplan

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For many guests dining in the elegant Waldorf restaurant is the highlight of the day. Carefully chosen menus present a blend of traditional cuisine and international specialities to suit all palates. Starters followed by delicious soups and salads, followed by delicious main courses ranging from seafood to Italian pastas to traditional roasts, finished off with a tempting range of desserts. There is the informal Marco's bistro too for a more relaxed buffet-style meal.

Glittering entertainment

After dinner make your way to the theatre style Marco Polo Lounge where the entertainment team will display their talents in a glittering and colourful 'big show' accompanied by the ship's live orchestra or if you prefer a quieter alternative, enjoy a drink in Scott's Bar, play cards in the Nansen Card room or relax in one of the five lounge areas.

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*Buy One Get One Free offer applies to new bookings made by 31 August 2014. First adult pays the per person price and second adult travels FREE. Offer subject to availability and may be withdrawn without notice. Prices are based on two adults sharing a twin cabin and excludes gratuities at £5 per person per night.

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Vicky Michelle Melvyn Hayes

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The Aurora Borealis

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Quote MP3-2-K05



Amsterdam

British Isles Easter Cruise

10 days Full Board 2 April, 2015

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INCLUDED: 9 nights full board cruise on the Marco Polo • Delicious full board cuisine • Afternoon teas and late night snacks • Captain's Cocktail Party • Self-service tea & coffee (6am to 10pm) • Guest Speaker and arts & crafts • Nightly entertainment • Daytime activities and leisure facilities • Portage of luggage, port to cabin • Port Taxes

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Quote MP4-K05



Tobermory, Mull

Majestic Fjordland Cruise

9 days Full Board 25 April, 2015

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Cruising the fjords



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KENT – the Garden of England for sure but also the home of food. As if we were not blessed enough with some of the finest produce on Earth, we have become spoilt for choice by the sheer variety of eateries that have sprung up in our towns, villages and countryside.

Whatever your favourite cuisine, Kent will be able to satisfy your strongest yearnings.

We're talking about an explosion of flavours across the Garden of England, spiritual home of the finest traditional food these islands can offer. Traditional, yes, but also an increasing range of dishes from across the world.

Who needs international travel when you live in Kent? It's time to wake up to the fact that you are living in the

dining capital of the world!

Mexican, Indian, Sri Lankan, Chinese, even Russian... it seems that no corner of the world doesn't have a representative in Kent's culinary empire.

And, of course, there is always the food of Kent itself, believed by many to be the finest on the planet.

It's a fact that Kent's restaurants are now attracting top chefs with Michelin-star experience.

In recent years, some of this nation's leading chefs have beaten a path to the county to ply their wonderful trade.

Here they can carve out new centres of culinary wizardry – and, more than anything, they want you to come taste the food.

The choice, as we have discussed, can be overwhelming, so here's a helping hand... and six of the best!



The Lighthouse Inn Capel-le-Ferne

Why here?

A taste of Covent Garden comes to The Lighthouse Inn on Saturday, July 26.

To the backdrop of soprano Christina Pharo and mezzo soprano Jennifer Brisk, a three-course meal will cost £35 (non-diners £12).

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Please check our website www.the-lighthouse-inn.co.uk for details of barbecues and wedding services.

How to book...

The Lighthouse Inn, 111 Old Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne phone 01303 254080; www.the-lighthouse-inn.co.uk



The Red Lion Hernhill

Why here?

The Red Lion is a 14th-century rustic inn four miles outside Faversham, in Hernhill.

To the side is a large garden with a children's play area and a car park.

Upstairs we have a new Champagne bar now open for all your special occasions.

There is a selection of cask ales and keg beers and cider, plus fine wines and soft drinks.

Food is served every lunchtime and evening. The food is home-cooked, tasty and plentiful, and you can

choose from the main menu or from the specials.

Lunchtime snacks are available for those wanting a smaller meal. On Sundays you have a choice of delicious roasts: pork, beef or lamb.

We are in the running for the Kent Life Food and Drink Awards in November, so please vote for us by going to www.kent-life.co.uk and downloading the application form.

How to book...

Crockham Lane, Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9JR phone 01227 751207 web: www.theredlion.org

Chiquito Broadstairs

Why here?

At Chiquito we're passionate about food!

Our dishes are made with the tastiest of ingredients, packed full of flavour to really tantalise your taste buds.

Whether you're looking for a tasty treat or a light bite, Chiquito really is the place to be!

Bring a copy of this newspaper and get £5 off your food bill when ordering two or more main meals from the main menu.

The offer is valid Monday to Thursday until Thursday, August 18, 2014.

This offer is subject to terms and conditions.

How to book...

23 Margate Road, Broadstairs CT12 5AD; phone 01843 579320; receive £5 off your food bill with this newspaper



The Anchor Faversham

Why here?

The Anchor is a beautiful 300-year-old pub, just a few minutes' walk from Faversham town centre at the terminus of Abbey Street, one of the finest preserved medieval streets in England and very close to the historic Faversham Creek.

Some of the beams in the pub are reported to be from the old abbey in Faversham.

At the heart of our kitchen is our new head chef Elliot George, who brings years of experience delivering the

best of British food.

We serve food all day, offering a full à la carte menu and ever-changing specials board, which adapts to the seasons.

With a variety of real ales on hand, live music every Sunday evening and a large peaceful beer garden, The Anchor is well worth seeking out and a great place to stop when enjoying a stroll through Faversham or a cycle-ride.

How to book...

52 Abbey Street, Faversham ME13 7BP phone 01795 536 471; web www.shepherdneame.co.uk



The Windmill Inn Ashford

Why here?

Every Sunday from midday until 5pm we serve our delicious carvery with a selection of four roast meats

– beef, pork, turkey or gammon – accompanied by roast potatoes, fresh vegetables, Yorkshire

puddings, stuffing and gravy. We also have a range of tempting desserts on offer if you have room left!

It's always advisable to book a table in advance as our carvery is very popular.

The Windmill Inn is renowned for its live music. We have bands every Friday and Saturday plus bands or solo artists many Thursdays.

How to book...

278 Hythe Road, Ashford TN24 0QR; phone 01233 647349; website www.windmillinnashford.co.uk

your say...

Send us your views.

Write to: Kent House,
81 Station Road, Ashford,
TN23 1PP

Email:
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

N d by government

FURTHER to your article covering the secretary of state for health's latest attack on GPs ('Plan to shame GPs on cancer diagnosis creates storm'), as a family doctor of more than 30 years I think your readers deserve to know how this government is undermining the NHS.

It has legislated to end the health secretary's duty to provide a comprehensive health service and placed control in the hands of private companies, many with links to MPs (at least 220 Parliamentarians, which is scandalous), and has put public health policy at the mercy of the food, tobacco and drinks industries.

Jeremy Hunt, who famously wrote a few years ago that the NHS had been a "60-year-old mistake", has a framework in place for the wholesale privatisation of the NHS. He softens the public up to this by telling everyone how terrible things are and have to change.

It is true the service is deteriorating, but this is because of Government policy where billions are wasted on commercialisation and the market. The plan has been to cut £20 billion from the budget.

In Orwell's language these are "efficiency savings", a phrase the gullible media continue to use. Some £1 billion of this has been from General Practice, and the country is short of 10,000 GPs. Take-up of family doctor training places is the lowest since 2007.

Despite being demoralised by these attacks, GPs are getting on with their work and perform 340 million consultations annually, which is 90 per cent of all patient contacts in the NHS, for a reduced 8 per cent of the budget.

So when you find it difficult to get a same-day appointment with your doctor, please do not blame him or her. And when you hear claims that more is being spent please understand the politicians are lying to you.

Dr Paul Hobday, via email

It's not surgeries we need but GPs

I HAVE always thought of county councillor Roger Gough as one of the more capable members of the county council's Conservative cabinet but, following his comments on the problems of recruiting GPs, I realise that I have misjudged him.

In his comments, he says he wants more integrated services closer to

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Step Short defied rich memorial tradition

REGARDING the Step Short arch recently constructed in Folkestone, many people may be unaware that within yards there is a war memorial unveiled in 1922 and funded entirely by subscriptions from the people of Folkestone.

Sculpted by Ferdinand Blundstone and recently listed Grade II*, it is in memory not only of those from Folkestone who were killed during the First World War but also, as it says on the inscription, of "the many thousands from all parts of the Empire who passed this port on their way to fight in the Great War (1914-1918)".

Only a short distance away is a stone cairn built from the stones over which the soldiers marched as they passed down the Road of Remembrance, also renamed in their memory. So with three existing commemorations to the soldiers who passed through Folkestone, should one not question the need to take at least £366,000 of taxpayers' money to partly finance a fourth?

When it was suggested to the Folkestone War Memorial Committee in 1921 that they might obtain some local authority funding, it was dismissed as "an absolutely absurd way of appealing for funds".

In 'Memorials of the Great War in Britain', Alex King writes "It was widely held that voluntary subscription was the only acceptable way to fund a war memorial. Only willing gifts would adequately express

recognition of the sacrifice the dead had made.

The Hackney and Kingsland Gazette argued that recourse to the rates to fund a war memorial would be "a very doubtful compliment to our gallant fighters" because the money would not have been raised as a voluntary gift.

This tradition of funding war memorials by subscriptions from the general public continues to this day. On the Ministry of Defence website it states "it has been a long-standing policy of successive governments that the cost of erecting memorials and associated projects are not usually met from public funds, but from private donations or public subscription".

If there were to be an exception to this tradition, it might have been the RAF Bomber Command Memorial unveiled in Green Park in London in 2012.

However, this was funded entirely by subscriptions from the public and large private donations, with the Ministry of Defence even refusing to contribute to the opening costs.

So Step Short has ignored all tradition by accepting any public funds for the construction and unveiling of its arch, which, in today's money, will probably cost 10 times the nearby war memorial so proudly financed by the people of Folkestone between 1919 and 1922.

Nick Spurrier,
Folkestone

patients' homes without the slightest indication that that comes at a cost, both financial and in terms of medical staff.

He then digs himself in deeper by claiming extra house-building in Kent will mean that local councils would be able to ask for developers to contribute to building more GP surgeries.

But county councillor Gough forgets the simple point that GPs are skilled clinicians while GP surgeries are just buildings. And the problem is a lack of new GPs coming into the profession combined with an increase in the number of established GPs reaching retirement age.

Cllr Gough can ask local councils to insist that a new GP surgery is built on every street corner in every new housing estate but, if there are no GPs to staff them, the surgeries will stand empty.

The county council and the coalition government need to face up to the real problem. A start would be to stop trying to turn GPs into managers and to allow them to focus on treating patients again.

Mike Eddy, KCC councillor
(Labour) for Deal and Walmer

New police model proves a delight

I DO not often put pen to paper, but having read about the new policing model in KoS, may I just say its contents delighted me.

Chief Constable Pugh's 30 years in the job obviously show he knows what he's doing. He will at once be able to see the effectiveness of individual police persons and those officers should enjoy more pride in their work.

Sara Tyler, Minster

The smokescreen of conservation

MAGPIES and shooting have taken centre stage in KoS recently. All wildlife, including magpies, play their own specific part in nature's unique orchestra. Those seeking to disrupt the delicate balance, by any means, are on dangerous ground.

The results of man's interference may not come to light immediately, but think bees and pollination, for a start. Magpies, whatever one's feelings towards them, are part of nature – guns are not.

BASC uses the word 'conservation' merely as a smokescreen to justify its shooting activities.

Mary McNulty, Brenchley

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

- 7) news, comment and advertising.
- 8) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 9) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 10) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 11) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Hythe Military Canal by Tony Brooks, Hythe

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Near Folkestone CT18 7LX

The law is changing! As from the 6th April 2016 you **must** have your dog microchipped!

Tuesday 22nd July
10-2pm

Contact **0207 8370006** for more details
or visit www.chipmydog.org.uk



* Offer open to dog owners aged 18 or over regardless of benefit status, subject to availability and resources of the charity. Please note that Dogs Trust does not currently fund any other veterinary treatment. No appointment needed. We strongly advise that puppies being chipped are fully vaccinated beforehand. We reserve the right to ask for proof of vaccination. We cannot chip any other pets at this event. The Promoter: Dogs Trust, 17 Wakely Street, London, EC1V 7RQ. Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 and SCO37843.




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 Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

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 Or **Text.. REPLY2** (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY2 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

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Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras.

mydate24
TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT2 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)
JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTm not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTm likeminded caring, happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049

FEMALE 38, attractive, African, single mum, seeks male, 35-50 for nights out, socialising, friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412793

PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297

WIDOW 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319

ANNA, busy mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

FREYA 33 6ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1945 Box No: 412285

MARILYN really nice curvy tactile female, loves romantic walks, cosy nights in, quality times, looking for nice male to spend time and fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411871

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere, ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 408297

SLIM petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129

PLACE YOUR AD BY TEXT
SIMPLY TEXT: REG followed by your **FIRST NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, AREA AND YOUR ADVERT** (max 155 characters) and **SEND TO 80098** **FREE** (Standard Network rates apply)

JULIE attractive outgoing female with a very young attitude, loves running, living life, travel, WLTm someone special to make my life complete, hope you're out there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411513

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585

JAN 5ft 6ins, dark hair/eyes, nice smile, likes music, travel, countryside, animals, employed, OHAC, looking for companionship with similar lonely heart. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411865

SARAH 25 petite slim attractive blonde student, enjoys keeping fit, looking good, socialising, going out, being a mum WLTm similar fun genuine guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411537

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410137

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413

RACHEL 39, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 6ins, bubbly, outgoing, naughty, busy, divorced, seeks male for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410835

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be winned, dined and romanced. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

LADY 60, size 12, easy going, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411301

LINDA 37, green eyes, attractive, bubbly size 12, enjoys cosy nights in, text chats, seeking tallish fun guy for meals out, pubs, clubs and spending quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411033

64YR old lady, seeking male for friendship, companionship, outings and interesting conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411975

CAROLINE 39yr old pretty blonde looking for handsome caring man to put the sparkle back into my life and make each other feel special. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411891

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411887

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I wd give it a go. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 1ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775

JANET 5ft 8ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293

WOULD you like to bounce into spring with me and onwards? Widow late 60's, enjoy most things in life, looking for someone to enjoy time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/ active, WLTm fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs, GSOH essential. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras.

mydate24
TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT2 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)
FRANK 54, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, smoker, seeking friendship with mature female, 40-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412893

COMPANY Director, mature, late 50's, seeking female, any age for mutually rewarding friendship, Kent/Surrey area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412819

IAN 5ft 11ins, likes rock/roll, singing, making people laugh, seeking someone special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412799

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749

MALE seeking friendship of mature woman, smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412703

LOCAL man wishes to meet nice lady for fun/friendship with a view to possible relationship. Respond if interested. Sevenoaks. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4334837

RETIRED male, seeks attractive female for friendship and fun, any age/status/colour. East Kent, can travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413133

AMIALE intelligent male, 77, light smoker, seeks slim lady for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413127

MATURE male, looking for discreet meetings with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413039

MALE 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235

BESIDE the Pointe, Literate self-possessing, legless, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223

45YR old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship, Herne Bay area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit, male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717

SINGLE young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

JAMES young, free and single, please give me a call if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412345

EX headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OHAC, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411045

SARAH pretty petite green eyed female, lots of fun, likes children, animals, gym, eating out, running, sports, fast cars, shopping, seeking, nice guy to spend time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408879

25YR old very lonely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408249

KAREN blonde, long legged, many interests, very young looking, outgoing, adventurous, likable, WLTm my soul mate, could that be you? pls call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407953

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411227

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339

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41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541


CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission, 090 calls cost £1.53 per min, plus network charges. Calls from Mobiles will be considerably higher. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/, REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed to receive 1 - 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone icon shows. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098. SMS TEXT CHAT*: 80098 costs £1.50 per SMS received. To STOP text stop to 80098. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. W/C 20/07/14

business

Thousands flock to first of Paramount meetings

by Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

INTEREST in plans for a £2 billion entertainment park, creating 27,000 jobs and becoming one of the biggest attractions in Europe, proved significant as the first stage of public consultation events took place.

A site in Swanscombe is earmarked for the development, which would transform disused land into a site on a par with the size and scale of Disneyland Paris. It has a licensing deal with Hollywood studio Paramount, allowing it to use big-name movie franchises in its branding such as Star Trek and Mission Impossible.

At the heart of the regeneration project will be a theme park, water park, major entertainment venues and transport links, including a monorail linking it with nearby Ebbsfleet International station.

The group behind the plans – London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH), 75 per cent owned by the Kuwaiti European Holding Company – is hoping if the planning process goes to plan, work could begin in two



PLANS: Paramount Park

years' time, with the park open for business by the summer of 2019.

The first step on that long journey was a series of events held in Dartford and Gravesham for those living closest to the project.

And some 2,000 people attended to get a first glimpse of the proposals.

Not that they saw much. As the preliminary stage of a year-long con-

sultation process, they were designed to understand how local communities, stakeholders and interested parties would like to be consulted as plans for the park move forward.

Visitors to the exhibitions were invited to provide feedback with questions on preferred venues, event times and communication methods.

Immediately after the events, more than 1,000 feedback forms had been submitted, with respondents showing a preference for non-traditional communication methods such as email, website and social media pages.

Fenlon Dunphy, on behalf of LRCH, said: "We really appreciate the time given by all those people that came along to our public consultation events – overall, the community seems to be excited about the idea of the London Paramount Entertainment Resort."

"The events not only gave us the opportunity to meet local residents and key stakeholders but also provided us with a lot of informative feedback that will enable us to tailor our consultation process to the topics identified by those local people and interested parties."

Euroferries in sponsor deal

TRAVEL firm Euroferries Express has signed a seven-figure sponsorship deal with Championship football side Millwall to be the club's shirt sponsor for the next five seasons.

The firm, which operates coach services in and around Canterbury and Medway, has long touted a high-speed ferry route between Ramsgate to Boulogne.

As part of the deal, coach services will be laid on for matchday travel from Kent.

Block evolution appointment

CONSTRUCTION consultancy Potter Raper Partnership has been appointed to lead the final transformation of an Ashford landmark from an office block into residential apartments.

Dukelease Properties appointed the firm as construction, design and management co-ordinators at The Panorama – the block formerly known as Charter House in the town centre.

Fears over claims Eurostar stake will be sold to French

RAIL union the RMT has slammed the Government for "stupidity and pure fiscal incompetence" after reports emerged that French state railway has an option to buy its 40 per cent share in high-speed rail service Eurostar.

The service runs from St Pancras to France and Belgium, via Ebbsfleet and Ashford.

Reports in the national press said the share could possibly be sold to SNCF, France's state-owned rail company.

It already owns a 55 per cent stake, with the remaining 5 per cent held by Belgian state railway.

The UK Government announced last year it was considering selling off its stake.

In talks with all the main players, RMT representatives have been told that as result of the balance of forces SNCF has a power of veto over any British sale, will not allow any sell-off to be conducted under the usual franchising rules and would be in a position to pick up the holding at a knock-down price if the sale was allowed to go ahead.

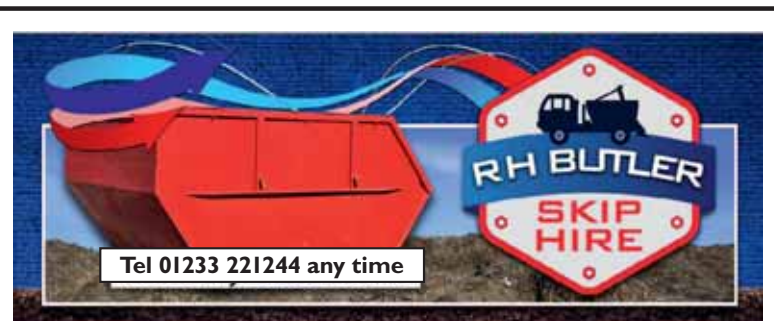
Union chiefs say the possible outcome has "distinct echoes of the botched and costly Royal Mail sell-off".

RMT acting general secretary Mick Cash said: "RMT always said that the planned sell-off of the highly-profitable British public stake in Eurostar was pure Thatcherite ideology and the latest reports that the French state can effectively take it over on their own terms just rams home that point."

"It is as clear as day that this right-wing government are quite happy to have state ownership of Britain's railways as long as it isn't by the British state and as long as the financial benefits aren't invested in our rail services."

"The policy on rail in Britain is a poisonous combination of stupidity, right-wing ideology and sheer fiscal incompetence. The Eurostar sell-off must be halted now."

The Government says no decision has yet been reached.



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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Update

MG3

Price:	£8,399
Driving appeal:	★★★★ (est)
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	Nissan Micra

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SUPERMINI: Following in the tyre tracks of its MG6 GT (below right) bigger sister, the MG3 (above) offers buyers lots of toys for their money

Can MG be a force again?

SLOWLY but surely, one of the great British motor brands is recovering. True, MG is now Chinese-owned, but it has too much wonderful heritage to be lost again.

And in some ways its current small-scale consolidation and hope of secure growth is surely better than the seats-of-the-pants ride – worse than any of its little pre-Second World War sports cars – that the marque endured over the final decades of Austin Rover.

The earliest date claimed for the creation of MG is 1924, the company name being derived from Morris Garages.

This Morris dealership in the brand's native Oxford had started customising models, inspired by its sales manager and talented engineer Cecil Kimber.

By 1928 the site was producing its own cars and introduced the traditional vertical slatted grille and octagonal badge that became the MG hallmarks, later leading to the T-Series or Midget sports cars that were such a hit at home and abroad.

But the swooping pre-war lines looked old-fashioned by the early 1950s, leading to the elegant MGA in 1955, and then the classic MGB in 1962. The Midget name was also revived around this time, but MG aficionados don't tend to count this as a proper MG as it was a re-badged Austin-Healey Sprite – probably the first of several gaffes that led to the brand's first disappearance in 1980 during the upheavals of then parent group British Leyland.

The badge revived a couple of years later, though, on so-called sporty versions of BL's Metro, Maestro and Montego models before all but disappearing in the early 1990s until an all-new MGF – a proper and

Back from the dead, MG has already started to recover its reputation as a brand that really pleases the driver



belated replacement for the MGB – appeared in 1995. It was complemented by MG sister models to mainstream Rovers.

By this time, the writing was on the wall: MG's troubled Rover parent had failed relationships with Honda and BMW and collapsed in 2005.

Its assets were bought by the Chinese Nanking Automobile Company and limited production of the MGT – a smarter derivative of the MGF – restarted in Birmingham.

Later acquired by another Chinese concern, SAIC, it is this set-up that has rebooted the company, albeit with most of the production in lower labour cost China and final assembly in the UK.



KEA

At the moment, MG does not produce the kind of two-seat sports car that made its name – the TF was finally dropped in early 2011 – and SAIC has said it wants to concentrate on mainstream models first, so the range currently comprises the MG3 supermini and MG6 GT, a large-scale VW Golf equivalent.

The brand's pitch is keen pricing with lots of specification, with the MG3 starting at just £8,399, and the bigger MG6 GT, from £15,455.

Though the technology tends to be tried and tested rather than cutting-edge, the reborn marque has already justified the faith of long-time MG buyers by showing up well in ownership surveys.

The highly-competitive Driver Power survey conducted by Auto Express placed the MG6 sixth overall in the Top 150 Cars To Own table, and awarded it 'Winner – Best Road Handling'.

Steve Fowler, Auto Express editor-in-chief, said: "We knew when we first drove the car that it handled brilliantly and it seems owners agree." He predicts a good showing for the MG3 in next year's survey.

Other view..

the Petrolhead

After the hiccups of recent decades, a lot more is required to restore the MG badge to the glamour of its heyday

She says

MG has lots of prestige, but the badge will gain even more when the current owner starts producing two-seat sports cars

the Eco-warrior

With comparatively high CO₂ (136g/km for MG3) emissions, it's a long way from the current trend with most small cars like this

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Giulietta



*Model shown is Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 bhp Progression at £18,750 OTR† including Luna Pearl Metallic Paint at £510. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 34.0 – 56.5 mpg (8.3 – 5.0 l/100km); Extra Urban 53.3 – 83.1 mpg (5.3 – 3.4 l/100km); Combined 44.1 – 70.6 mpg (6.4 – 4.0 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 148 – 104 g/km.

†Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

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^^£500 Alfa Romeo Deposit Contribution is available on PCP & HP and is valid from 1 July – 30 September 2014 on Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 bhp Progression only. Participating dealers only. Retail sales only. Terms & Conditions apply and are subject to exclusions.

†On the road price includes 12 months' road fund licence, first vehicle registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures and prices are correct at time of publishing. Vehicles must be registered by 30th September 2014.

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vRS	£249

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FirstGEAR

Motoring news



Swift SZ-L returns

AFTER Suzuki's sales success with the Special Edition SZ-L Swift supermini earlier this year, the Japanese firm has brought it back.

Based on the mid-grade 1.2-litre petrol SZ3, it is available until September 30, priced from £11,099 for the three-door and £11,599 for the five-door.

Standard kit includes seven airbags, stability control, air-con, USB port and Bluetooth, LED running lights, two-tone metallic paintwork – and a fun driving experience.



Grab the fab Fabia

AS Skoda's space-efficient Fabia supermini nears the end of its production life, the Czech marque has turned on the bargains tap.

The latest offer is the well-equipped SE model at £9,595 – a 20 per cent saving on the £12,580 list price – plus spare wheel and metallic paint, normally worth £600.

This version already comes with 15-inch alloys, extra rear-speakers, air-con, electric door-mirrors and remote central-locking.



GTC gets 1.6 diesel

VAUXHALL has extended the range of cars offered with its impressive new 1.6 CDTi 'Whisper Diesel' by offering it on the Astra GTC.

This creates a rakish three-door coupé hatch with just 104g/km CO₂ emissions (£20 a year road tax – zero in year one) and up to 72.4mpg combined economy.

The new unit was already available on the Astra five-door hatch and Sports Tourer, Meriva and Zafira Tourer models.

LOAD-LUGGER WITH LOOKS: Honda's Civic Tourer offers reliability, looks, pace and class-leading boot space. In diesel form, it can return 74mpg.

Honda satisfies passion for pacey, racy estates

Stylish yet capacious and compact Tourer from Honda shows just how far the humble estate car has risen in status, says **Steve Loader**

HONDA CIVIC TOURER 1.8 i-VTEC SR

Price:	£24,355
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£140/year
Best rival:	Seat Leon ST

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ESTATES are in vogue at the moment, though the 'e-word' doesn't crop up much at dinner parties.

You may hear people boasting about their Touring, Sport Tourer or plain Tourer, but the word estate applied to a car is a bit too 'trade', I'm afraid.

Traditionally, it conjures images of pushy sales reps plus wagonloads of samples, window-cleaners with ladders on the roof and a farmer's Sunday best car rather than the Land Rover – though still practical enough to chuck a bale of straw in the back.

But ever since BMW coined the word Touring for its estates and Audi followed suit with Avant, the estate has shrugged off its blue collar and gained a country-set image.

Mainstream brands then mimicked premium ones, especially when they realised that some keener drivers – having tried the rugged SUV and practical but dull MPV routes – were casting about for something responsive and stylish yet still practical.

So we've had a rash of estates by other names and now including Honda's elegant Civic Tourer (from £20,270).

It's the first time Honda has spun an estate from its family hatchback – a clear sign of the aforementioned demand – and it has been executed with style as a priority without sacrificing flexibility.

It claims the biggest boot volume in its class yet aerodynamic lines and Honda's impressive new 1.6-litre diesel (these models from £21,375) delivers a road-tax-exempt 99g/km of CO₂ and official combined 74mpg option.

This lightweight 120PS (118bhp) engine also offers a lively 0-62mph in 10.1 seconds.

Not that the 1.8-litre petrol alternative tested here is poor. It will save you £1,105 against the equivalent diesel, is a second faster to 62mph and very refined, though it will cost you £140/year road tax and deliver a less impressive 45.6mpg (combined) so the comparatively small financial step up to diesel, might not deter too much.

Other key factors in this attractive load-lugger's favour are Honda's mainstream/premium market position plus an enviable customer satisfaction record – it's been a regular winner or runner-up in various awards of this type.

Admittedly, prices for the new car are not cheap, but safety features and standard kit are generous and include Bluetooth Hands Free Telephone (HFT) set-up, DAB

radio, USB connectivity and 16-inch alloys.

The car – built in the UK at Swindon – also feels solidly made, roomy and well arranged, with a dashboard that is less space age than the controversial one on the previous-generation Civic.

But it's the car's sharp handling and decent ride, plus quite brilliant mix of looks and estate car 'crammability' that score highest: 624 litres of boot to the tonneau/parcel cover with rear seats up, and 1,668 to the roof with seats down, yet the Civic Tourer is the lowest and most compact estate in the segment and just 235mm longer than its Civic hatchback sister.

It also carries over Honda's Magic Seat system, where the rear seat bases can be pulled up to allow loading across the rear seat wells, left in place to allow items to be stashed beneath, or folded fully flat for large bulky loads through the tailgate.

The car's Adaptive Dumper System (ADS) is also claimed as a world first: this automatically adjusts the rear suspension damping to enhance stability and comfort whatever the load or driving conditions – fairly important on an estate car, and it works.

However, would-be buyers expecting to use their Tourer's load-carrying capacity to the full, should note this feature is only standard on the more upmarket SR and EX trim, (prices from £23,455).



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September 2014

Kitchen Assistants Required

Kitchen assistants required weekdays (lunchtime and evening service) and weekends.

The Anchor & Hope is a country pub and restaurant based in the village of Ash (near Sevenoaks). The restaurant sits 40 covers and the bar area the same. The style of food being served is gastro.

The Anchor & Hope was taken over under new management a month ago and already sales of food has increased by almost double.

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Ben Eldridge and Emma Pearson
Anchor & Hope, South Ash Road,
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Tel: 01474 872382

Email: anchor_hope@hotmail.com



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

TARA LIMITED NEXT LEVEL HOUSE, THAMES ROAD, CRAYFORD, KENT DA1 4QH is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 3 goods vehicles and 6 trailers at AYLESFORD HERITAGE LIMITED, AYLESFORD QUARRY, ROCHESTER ROAD, AYLESFORD, MAIDSTONE KENT ME20 7DJ. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.



Public Notice

17 July 2014



The Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Amendment No 1) Order 2014

Notice is hereby given that on 11 July 2014 Canterbury City Council made the above Order under the provisions of Sections 32 and 35 and Parts III and IV of the Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with the consent of the Kent County Council under Section 39(3) of the said Act of 1984.

The Order will come into operation on 21 July 2014 and will:

Allow free car parking on part of the Westmeads Recreation Ground, Whitstable in marked parking bays on Saturdays, Sundays and Public and Bank Holidays between 8.30am and 8pm.

A copy of the Order may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Canterbury

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provision contained in it, on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the 1984 Act or on the grounds that any requirement of any Act or of any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from 11 July 2014, apply to the High Court for this purpose.

Dated this 17th day of July 2014.

Colin Carmichael,
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
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Canterbury CT1 1YW



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PLANNING



THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) (CHILHAM ROAD PERMIT PARKING ZONE) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes the following –

Permit holders only [between 08:00 – 20:00 hours on all days]

Roads in Folkestone: Chilham Road – Both sides from a point 63.5 metres north west of its junction with Cheriton High Street

Permit holders and time limited waiting [between 08:00 – 20:00 hours on all days]

Roads in Folkestone: Chilham Road – East side, from a point 11.5 metres north west of its junction with Cheriton High Street, north for a distance of 52 metres

Prohibition of waiting [at any time]

Roads in Folkestone: Chilham Road – East side, from its junction with Cheriton High Street, north west for a distance of 11.5 metres; west side, from its junction with Cheriton High Street, north west for a distance of 64.5 metres; west side, from a point 115 metres north of its junction with Cheriton High Street; north side, for the entire width of the carriageway

A copy of the Order together with a copy of any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Zone D), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Zone D" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 11th August 2014 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Services) Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY.

This Notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, Environment and Regeneration, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0773/SH# - Seamore Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of a front extension.

Y14/0787/SH - The Vicarage Priory Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 1SW - Change of use of former Vicarage to provide additional educational facilities for St. Eanswythe's Church of England Primary School.

Y14/0737/SH - 2 Cannon Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9AS - Replacement of five timber windows on the front elevation

Y14/0091/SH# - Land Adjacent Framlea (known Locally As Pod Corner) Rye Road Brookland Kent - Outline application for the erection of eight residential dwellings with a village green to the south eastern side of the A259, associated access, parking and landscaping.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

PLANNING



THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2010 (AMENDMENT NO 16)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes the following restrictions –

Prohibitions of footway parking:

Roads in Folkestone: Bouverie Road West – North side from its junction with Turket Road to its junction with Manor Road; South side, from its junction with Castle Hill Avenue to its junction with Manor Road. **Castle Hill Avenue** – Both sides from its junction with Cheriton Road to its junction with Shorncliffe Road; and then its central median, including the footpaths, from its junction with Shorncliffe Road to its junction with Sandgate Road. **Earls Avenue** – Both sides for its entire length. **South Street** – For its entire length.

Prohibitions of waiting [at any time]:

Roads in Folkestone: Radnor Park Road – South east side, from a point 20 metres north east of its junction with St Johns Church Road, to a point 50 metres north east of that junction; **Plain Road** – Both sides from its junction with Sandgate Road, north for a distance of 18 metres; both sides of its junction with Plain Road, south for a distance of 12 metres; south side from a point 10 metres west of its junction with Plain Road to a point 10 metres east of that junction; **Sandgate Road** – North side, from a point 17 metres west of its junction with Plain Road to a point 17 metres east of that junction; **Cherry Garden Lane** – Both sides from its junction with Cherry Garden Avenue, north west for a distance of 50 metres; **Ingles Road** – South side, from its junction with Cheriton Gardens, west for a distance of 23 metres; North side from a point 40 metres north east of its junction with Christ Church Road, east for a distance of 7 metres. **Roads in Sandgate: Sandgate Hill** – South side, from its junction with Lister Way to the boundary wall of numbers 4 and 5 Sandgate High Street. **Roads in St Marys Bay: Taylors Lane** – Both sides, from a point 8 metres north of its junction with Taylors Close, to a point 12 metres south of its junction with Jenners Way;

Prohibitions of loading and unloading [between the hours of 8am and 6pm on all days]:

Roads in Folkestone: St Eanswythes Way – North east side, from a point 73 metres south east of its junction with Shellons Street, to the boundary wall of numbers 2 and 4 Guildhall Street

Prohibitions of loading and unloading [at all times]:

Roads in Folkestone: Albion Villas – Both sides, from its junction with The Leas, north east to the start of the private carriageway; **The Leas** – North west, north east and east sides surrounding the war memorial; **Pound Way** – Both sides, from its junction with Albion Villas, north for a distance of 17 metres; **West Terrace** – Both sides from its junction with The Leas, north west for a distance of 15 metres

Provision of parking places [08:00 – 18:00 Mondays to Saturdays, 1 hour no return within 2 hours]

Roads in Hythe: Douglas Avenue – East side outside number 3 Douglas Avenue; **Bank Street** – East side from a point 6 metres north of its junction with Chapel Street, north for a distance of 10 metres

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Amendment 15), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Amendment 16" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 11th August 2014 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Services), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY.

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX

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Gemma and Barney excited to win spot at the Horse of the Year Show



HORSE AND RIDER: Gemma Dunn and her horse known better as Barney



County rider talks about her surprise and delight as she and her relatively new horse prepare to compete in this country's most respected equestrian event

AKENT rider has won a place at the Horse of the Year Show.

Gemma Dunn, from Orpington, said her success came as a shock as she had been showing for less than two years.

Earlier this month, she took second place in a qualifier to secure her place at Britain's most prestigious equestrian event.

She was beaten only by Mister Tumble, owned and ridden by Sharon Moss, from Gloucestershire.

Dunn was riding her relatively new horse Kell's Lad to take the runner-up place in the Open Cob class at the South Essex Insurance Brokers Search For A Star 2014 qualifier at Bury Farm Equestrian Village in Buckinghamshire.

Any of the three sizes of the Cob class were able to enter, dramatically cutting the odds on winning, making Dunn's qualification even more impressive.

The horse is more popularly known as Barney at home and was only snapped up in 2011 from Meopham-based Clover Barn Irish Horses.

Dunn, the mother of nine-year-old Mia, said: "I bought Barney as I had lost a lot of confidence in my riding. He is just great, but I never dreamt I would be going showing, let alone to the Horse Of The Year Show."

"It's a bit like Crufts for horses. The judges watch how the horses perform in the ring. They check how the horse looks and behaves. There's no jumping or dressage, although I love doing that, too."

"I'm getting a bit too old to do

things like the Badminton Horse Trials – those fences are massive and it's just not for me. The older you get, the more you think 'No, I don't want to throw myself over one of those'.

"When I was younger, I used to jump five-bar gates out of fields and thought nothing of it, but when you get older you think of the risks more."

"Showing is relatively safe and there are no jumps."

Dunn, 33, had shown Barney in the Hunter classes previously, but judges repeatedly told her to enter the Cob class instead, which meant shaving off the animal's mane to go into the Lightweight Cob class. The other categories are Heavyweight and Maxi.

She told us: "I wasn't keen on doing that. I said I didn't want to cut all his hair off. But so many judges were saying Barney would do better in the Cob class that I eventually agreed, and now can't believe how well he has done."

"Once I had a few professional opinions, I switched, took all his hair off and took him out as a cob and have done really well."

"This is now my first season showing him as a cob and we are going to Horse of the Year. I am so happy."

The pair have also qualified for Equifest this year and plan to attend the Edenbridge show as well in the run-up to HOYS; both are important events.

Dunn said: "We will keep the schooling and practising up in the run-up to the big one. I work full-time as a recruitment consultant in London and I ride, train and look

after Barney in my spare time. "Barney is such a superstar and totally genuine – I am really looking forward to riding him at the show."

The recruiter has been riding since she was five but only started out in bigger shows two years ago after snapping up Barney. Horses in this class usually sell for around the £2,000 mark.

She said: "I do enjoy doing dressage, but I have decided to specialise in showing."

"It can be quite expensive to do, but as I have now reached HOYS there is no way I wouldn't go. I probably won't get the chance to do it again. When we qualified, we were in an open class, making it even harder to win because all types of cobs were allowed in. If they had only allowed lightweights, all the other competitors would have been very similar to Barney."

When she bought Barney, she picked him out of the line-up because of his temperament.

She told us: "To me he stood out. It might sound a bit mushy, but I didn't see the way he looked. I was more interested in the personality."

Search For A Star show judge Richard Ramsay said: "This competition gives amateurs the chance to compete at the Horse of the Year Show, a dream that many riders would love to realise and the standard in Search For A Star gets better every year."

Dunn and Kell's Lad will now compete in the Lightweight Cob showing class at the Horse of the Year Show, which runs from Wednesday to Sunday, October 8-12, at the Birmingham NEC.

Fondly-remembered cricketer is inspiration for charity week

A POPULAR cricket week raising Macmillan funds in memory of a former player struck down by cancer in 2000 starts this month.

Gas-fitter Lee Stepney and friend David Lloyd were so shocked when their friend Don Macaulay was lost to cancer that they set up this event.

Lee said: "As a club we've staged the cricket week in his honour ever since, but through the years it has been slowly lost and forgotten about.

"We want to reinvigorate it this year to raise more money for Macmillan, which does tireless work supporting those with cancer.

"Many people rely on these incredibly hard-working souls and we want to do our bit to support that work. Don's example shows none of us are immune and we may all one day need the services of a Macmillan nurse.

"We all knew Don very well, so Upchurch Cricket Club have decided to breathe new life into this annual event and make a real week of it.

"We need to raise money for the Macmillan nurses as this was the wish of Don's parents.

"Sadly, his father died last year, making this cricket week even more important.

"We have gained sponsorship from local businesses to fund the week and have fixtures every day, culminating in a cricket tournament on the Friday with a live-band hog roast, raffle and auction to raise as much as possible for the charity."

Lee, who runs a gas services company in Rainham, said: "We want to raise awareness and let people know how much we care about this charity.

"Don was a vibrant member who thrived on being part of the club.

"He was an exceptionally canny bowler who won numerous



MEMORY: Don Macaulay, second left, died in 2000 after fight with cancer

awards for his wicket-taking and he also enjoyed the social side of the club.

"We thought the best way we could remember him and celebrate his life was to stage a cricket week in his memory, and his parents' wish was that any money raised would go to the Macmillan nurses.

"All these years later, we are still running it. This year, we would love to hit a four-figure sum to help this fantastic charity and to remember our friend."

He added: "We were all devastated to lose him at such a young age.

"It was thought the best way to remember him was by staging a cricket week in his honour and I think it's fair to say that over the years the way the club has grown in size, stature and playing members the week itself has become a bit lost and forgotten about.

"Many of our members do not know who Don was, but we think it's important that as a club we never forget our roots or the

people who helped put our club in the position we are today.

"We all want to raise awareness for a great charity and put the club on the map with a week that we can be proud of.

"Donating the money to Macmillan was the idea of Don's parents. They were so grateful and appreciate what these nurses do.

"They were a great help and comfort to the family at the time."

To support the event, go along during the week, Monday to Friday, July 21-25:

- **Monday 21:** Upchurch vs Chatham Nomads XI, 2pm 40-over, BBQ/curry night
- **Tuesday 22:** Upchurch vs Sherwood CC XI, 2pm 40-over, BBQ/quizz night
- **Wednesday 23:** Upchurch vs TKW XI, 2pm 40-over, BBQ/karaoke
- **Thursday 24:** Upchurch vs Meopham CC XI, 2pm 40-over, BBQ
- **Friday 25:** LMS cricket tournament, four teams, 10am-7pm
- Hog roast/live band for £5

Glasgow, here we come! Athletes ready to rumble

KENT athletes are putting the final touches to their preparations for the Commonwealth Games, which begin in Glasgow on Wednesday.

Dartford sprinter Adam Gemili will be racing in the 100m in his first Commonwealth Games.

He competed at the 2012 London Olympic Games, where he reached the heats of the 100m semi-final.

Martin Brockman, who won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010, will be contesting the decathlon.

Shot-putter Scott Rider also competed at the Delhi Games, where he finished sixth. He lives in Dartford and is a PE teacher at central London's Portland Place School.

Shaunagh Brown, having had her first call-up for England at a Commonwealth Games, will compete in the hammer.

Sian Honnor, meanwhile, has been selected for the lawn bowls team; Sarah Gray, from Ashford, has been chosen for the clay-target-shooting squad; Owen Boxall has been selected for the 94kg category in weightlifting; and Grace Clements will be competing in the heptathlon.

Ashley Jackson, Barry Middleton, Dan Fox, George Pinner and Nick Catlin are in the Men's hockey squad and Susannah Townsend, Laura Unsworth, Maddie Hinch and Lucy Wood will be competing with the women's hockey squad.



HOT SHOT: Shot-putter Scott Rider, right, with a Portland Place School pupil

Spurs legends will take on old foes at Dartford

TICKETS are on sale for the much-anticipated match between the Arsenal Foundation and Stacey Spurs All Stars at Dartford's Princes Park.

The game will raise money for the Stacey Mowle Appeal, with the Spurs team set to include Micky Hazard, who played for the club from 1978-85 and 1993-95, winning the FA Cup with them in 1982 and the UEFA Cup in 1984.

Also confirmed is Steve Sedgely, who played in the Spurs midfield from 1989-94 and won the FA Cup in 1991.

X Factor finalist Sam Callahan will also be turning out for the All Stars.

One man who won't be playing, however, is Darren Anderton, who, due to "unforeseen circumstances", has had to pull out.

The absence of Anderton, who carried the unfortunate nickname of Sicknote during his playing days, will perhaps not come as a great

surprise to many.

Daniel Wynne, the Spurs TV commentator and stadium announcer at White Hart Lane, will be the main voice for the day, but we are told "there may be a few surprises along the way".

The Arsenal Foundation have a set team but may yet introduce one or two guest players, to be confirmed.

The match kicks off at Princes Park at 2pm on Sunday, July 27.

Tickets are priced at £6, with a family ticket costing £20 (two adults and two children).

They can be bought at nld4stacey.com/tickets, at Princes Park (Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm) or by phoning 01322 299994. There will be a fee of £1.50 per order for telephone sales.

A small number of VIP tickets will be available for pre-purchase for a larger donation through the Stacey Mowle website, www.thestaceymowleappeal.co.uk.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:

Twitter @KentSport Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

SO JUST WHO WAS THE DON?

DON Macaulay played for Upchurch Cricket Club from the age of 17.

He knew how to hold a bat, but it was his deliveries as a bowler for which he was best known.

It won him numerous awards both for the club and, when Upchurch entered league cricket, a fair share of league bowlers' awards, too.

He was instrumental in helping them get through the regional leagues and to where they are today at Kent League level.

Don was a popular member of the club who enjoyed the social side of the game and the players were devastated when they lost him at the age of 37 to cancer in

July 2000. It was a tough time for his family, the village and the club, particularly as that season Upchurch gained promotion from a regional league.

The team dedicated the achievement to Don.

The following season they decided the best way to remember Don was to stage a cricket week in his honour, and so was born the Don Macaulay Cricket Week.

Initially, they played Minster, who donated a cup to be contested by both teams.

There is a minute's silence before the game every year. It was the wish of Don's parents, Diane and Mac, that any money

raised go to the Macmillan nurses as they were a great help and comfort to the family.

It was never much, but the team always passed it on to Diane, who would, along with the funds raised at charity events that she ran, give it to Macmillan.

Mac continued to be part of the cricket club and helped out with the groundwork, cutting the outfield as Don's ashes were laid to rest at Upchurch. He also had a bench in his honour.

Unfortunately, Mac himself passed away last year.

The event now has the support of Hidsons, Rainham Physiotherapy, BDL Gas Services and DGL Testing Services.



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